

## Sectarian Strife Mounts In Iraq

YASIR GHAZI  
TIM ARANGO

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**BAGHDAD** - In the span of roughly an hour, as the streets were choked with morning commuters and shoppers, more than a dozen explosions struck Baghdad on Wednesday, killing at least 65 people and wounding far more, officials said. It was the latest in a series of terrorist attacks that have engulfed Iraq.



Mourners pray over a car bomb victim in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, south of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013.

(AP Photo)

The explosions, which struck mainly Shiite neighborhoods, follow a series of beheadings in recent days, some of which were claimed by al-Qaida's Iraq affiliate. They have raised new fears that Iraq, whose population is mainly Shiite, is returning to the bloody sectarian violence that gripped the country in 2006 and 2007, nearly tearing it apart.

In a scene reminiscent of those times, just as Baghdad was gripped by panic Wednesday morning, gunmen stormed the home of a Shiite family in the Sunni-dominated town of Latifiya, south of Baghdad, and killed seven people, including four children, with knives.

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## WHERE KING STOOD



President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, former President Jimmy Carter and former President Bill Clinton wave as they leave 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington where Martin Luther King Jr., spoke, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

## Obama Reframes A Dream For A New Era

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**WASHINGTON** - President Barack Obama stepped Wednesday into the space where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once stood

and summoned his iconic dream of a colorblind society in a celebration of a half-century of progress and a call to arms for the next generation.

On a day of overcast skies and misty rain, tens of thousands of Americans - black, white and every shade in between - returned to the site of King's "I Have a

Dream" speech to listen to the nation's first black president reframe the mission for a new era.

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## Official: US willing to go it alone against Syria

DEB RIECHMANN  
KIMBERLY DOZIER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration said Wednesday it would take action against the Syrian government even without

the backing of allies or the United Nations because diplomatic paralysis must not prevent a response to the alleged chemical weapons attack outside the Syrian capital last week. New requests for the United

Nations to authorize military action in Syria may have complicated the Obama administration's plan to take retaliatory action on the purported poison gas attack east of Damascus that U.S. officials claim was

carried out by President Bashar Assad's forces. But a State Department spokeswoman said the U.S. would respond even in the absence of U.N. backing.

Continued on page 2



# US envoy: No guarantee North Korea will free Bae

**ERIC TALMADGE**  
**Associated Press**

**TOKYO (AP)** — A senior U.S. envoy who will travel to North Korea later this week said Wednesday that he

plans to strongly appeal for the release of an American sentenced to 15 years of hard labor by the authoritarian state but added that Washington has received

no guarantees from Pyongyang the ailing man will be freed. Bob King, the U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights issues, said dur-

ing a stopover in Tokyo that the United States is increasingly concerned about the health of 45-year-old Kenneth Bae, a tour operator and Christian missionary who was arrested last November and accused of committing "hostile acts" against North Korea. "We're going to make an appeal," King said after a meeting with Japanese officials. "He has health problems and we're hopeful we will be able to make progress on that." When asked if he was confident Bae would be released, he said. "We haven't been told that anything is definite." King will fly to Pyongyang from a U.S. military base near Tokyo on Friday, and fly back on Saturday. It will be the first public trip to North Korea by a U.S. administration official in more than two years. The U.S. has requested a pardon and amnesty on humanitarian grounds for Bae, who suffers multiple health problems and

was recently hospitalized. Washington has been calling for Pyongyang to grant amnesty since Bae was sentenced on April 30. A breakthrough on the Bae case could provide an opening for an improvement in relations severely strained by Pyongyang's pursuit of nuclear weapons. Two senior Obama administration officials reportedly made secret visits to North Korea in 2012 in an effort to improve relations with the government of young leader Kim Jong Un, but apparently made little headway. North Korea has previously used detained Americans as bargaining chips in its standoff with the U.S. over its nuclear and missile programs. Multination aid-for-disarmament talks have been on hold since 2009, and efforts by Washington to negotiate a freeze in the North's nuclear program in exchange for food aid collapsed 18 months ago. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Wednesday that the U.S. was hopeful that King would return with Bae, but she would not link that issue with the prospects for renewed U.S.-North Korean dialogue. Harf reiterated the U.S. position that North Korea should honor its previous commitments to abandon nuclear weapons. Bae is at least the sixth American detained in North Korea since 2009. The others were eventually allowed to leave without serving out their terms, some after prominent Americans, including former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, visited North Korea. If North Korea releases Bae, it will be the second time King has come back with a prisoner. When he last visited North Korea in May 2011 to assess the impoverished North's food situation, he came home with Eddie Jun. Jun, a Korean-American from California, was arrested for alleged unauthorized missionary work during several business trips to the country. □



U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights issues, Robert King, listens to questions from reporters after meeting with South Korean government officials at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

## Official: US willing to go it alone against Syria

**Continued on from Front**

"We cannot be held up in responding by Russia's intransigence — continued intransigence — at the United Nations," Marie Harf said. "The situation is so serious that it demands a response."

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama said the U.S. has concluded that the Syrian government carried out a large-scale chemical weapons attack against civilians last week. Obama says he hasn't made a decision about how the U.S. will respond. The U.S. has not publicly presented proof that Assad's government used deadly chemical weapons near Damascus last week. Even so, U.S. officials, including Vice President Joe Biden, have pointed a finger squarely at Assad. The administration was planning a teleconference briefing Thursday on Syria for leaders of the House



Members of the local Syrian community rally against the United States' involvement in Syria, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2013 in Allentown, Pa. The United States, Britain and France have made it clear they believe the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad was behind a recent deadly chemical weapons attack in the suburbs of Damascus, and that such an act demands a swift international response.

(AP Photo/Chris Post)

and Senate and national security committees in both parties, U.S. officials and congressional aides said. U.S. intelligence intercepted lower-level Syrian military commanders' communications discussing the

chemical attack, but the communications don't specifically link the attack to an official senior enough to tie the killings to Assad himself, according to three U.S. intelligence officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they

were not authorized to discuss the intelligence publicly. The White House ideally wants intelligence that links the attack directly to Assad or someone in his inner circle, to rule out the possibility that a rogue element of the military decided to use chemical weapons without Assad's authorization. That quest for added intelligence to bolster the White House's case for a strike against Assad's military infrastructure has delayed the release of the report by the Office of the Director for National Intelligence laying out evidence against Assad. The report was promised earlier this week by administration officials. The CIA and the Pentagon have been working to gather more human intelligence tying Assad to the attack, relying on the intelligence services of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel, the officials said. □



## Q&A ON THE NEWS

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**Q:** A while back, an elderly lady in Florida won \$590.5 million in the Powerball jackpot. She bought the winning ticket after somebody let her cut in line. If they hadn't, they might have won the money. Did she give them a monetary reward?

-- **Tom Brayton, Sharpsburg, Ga.**

**A:** There have been no reports of Gloria C. MacKenzie rewarding Mindy Crandell, who didn't say anything when the 84-year-old MacKenzie stepped in front of her in a Publix in Zephyrhills, Fla., in May. "I don't know that she was intentionally cutting," Crandell told the Tampa Bay Times, "or maybe she didn't realize she did it." MacKenzie issued a written statement when she went to claim her winnings in early June, referring to Crandell without calling her by name. "While in line, another lottery player was kind enough to let me go ahead of them in line to purchase the winning Quick Pick ticket." MacKenzie chose to take the lump sum payment of \$370 million, before taxes. Crandell has said she's not upset. "I mean, maybe ... she needed it more than we did," Crandell told WTSP in St. Petersburg, Fla. "Whatever it was, it was meant to be that she had it."

**Q:** I heard about a lady who was lost on the Appalachian Trail, somewhere in Maine. Did they ever find her?

-- **Laurel Marsh, Auburn, Ga.**

**A:** The search for Geraldine Largay, 66, was scaled back on Aug. 4, but the Maine Warden Service was still looking for the missing Appalachian Trail hiker who has not been heard from since July 22. Largay sent a text message to her husband that day but missed a planned meeting with him in Wyman Township, Maine, on July 23. George Largay reported his wife missing July 24. Geraldine Largay started her hike in West Virginia and was about 200 miles from the end of the trail when she disappeared.

**Q:** Will Jesse Jackson Jr. have to pay back the \$750,000 to his campaign funds?

-- **Carol Murphy, Woodstock, Ga.**

**A:** Jackson, a former U.S. representative and son of civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, won't have to pay back \$750,000 to his campaign fund, but must pay a \$750,000 forfeiture, which he agreed to do when he pleaded guilty in February, the Chicago Tribune reported. Sandra Jackson, his wife and former Chicago alderman, initially was ordered to pay \$168,550 representing unpaid taxes, but the judge reduced it to \$22,000. Jackson Jr. pleaded guilty in February of misusing campaign funds and also must serve a 30-month prison term. Sandra Jackson also received a one-year term for pleading guilty of filing false tax returns.

**Q:** With downstream waterways full or flooded, why is Lake Lanier not being filled to its greater capacity to better serve current and future reservoir purposes?

-- **George Levins, Alpharetta, Ga.**

**A:** Lake Lanier is not being filled because the available capacity above 1,071 feet (summer pool) is for flood control purposes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman E. Patrick Robbins told Q-and-A on the News in an email. "Given the conditions this year, and the fact that we are entering the peak of the tropical storm season, it is prudent to maintain the flood control capacity," he wrote. All of Lake Lanier's facilities, including many docks, bulkheads and marinas, were designed for the summer pool level. □

## Obama Reframes A Dream For A New Era

Continued from Front

"To dismiss the magnitude of this progress, to suggest as some sometimes do that little has changed, that dishonors the courage and the sacrifice of those who paid the price to march in those years," Obama said as King's relatives, compatriots and admirers watched. "But we would dishonor those heroes as well to suggest that the work of this nation is somehow complete."

because of those who were there 50 years ago.

"Because they kept marching, America changed," the president said. "Because they marched, the civil rights law was passed. Because they marched, the voting rights law was signed. Because they marched, doors of opportunity and education swung open so their daughters and sons could finally imagine a life for themselves beyond washing somebody else's laundry or shining somebody

blame for growing economic insecurity.

But he also said his side of the political spectrum should not use race as an excuse either.

"If we're honest with ourselves, we'll admit that in the course of 50 years, there were times that some of us claiming to push for change lost our way," he said. He added, "Racial politics could cut both ways."

The Rev. Bernice King, King's daughter, who spoke after the former pres-



Martin Luther King III, right, his wife Arndrea Waters, left, and their daughter Yolanda Renee King, listen as President Barack Obama speaks a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

"The arc of the moral universe may bend toward justice," the president added, adopting a line from King, "but it doesn't bend on its own. To secure the gains this country has made requires constant vigilance, not complacency."

The symbolic journey from King to Obama on display on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial animated the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom more than any particular oratory. In his own speech, Obama made only oblique reference to his unique place in history, when he said "and yes, eventually the White House changed," but the power of his presence was lost on no one.

Obama hit on the theme that progress was made

else's shoes."

More sober than stirring, Obama's 28-minute address, twice as long as King's original, made the case that the fight for the new era was to ensure that opportunity is available not just for a few but for the many, for "the black custodian and the white steelworker" and "the immigrant dishwasher."

"This remains our great unfinished business," he said. "We shouldn't fool ourselves. The task will not be easy."

Obama, who was preceded by two former presidents, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, took veiled shots at his political opponents, criticizing those who "practice the old politics of division" by claiming that the government is to

idents, noted that there were no women on the program 50 years ago, but that a number of powerful women spoke Wednesday afternoon.

She delivered a stirring call to "let freedom ring" as the King family and Barack and Michelle Obama gathered around and rang a bell that had been saved from the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., where a bombing by the Ku Klux Klan killed four girls just weeks after King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Some of the lions of the era were there, including Rep. John Lewis, Andrew Young and Joseph Lowery, grayer, thicker, slower, in some cases in a wheelchair, but stirring the emotions of their youth. □



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# Fort Hood gunman Nidal Hasan sentenced to death

MICHAEL GRACZYK  
NOMAAN MERCHANT  
Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — Hasan to death for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, delivering the



In this courtroom sketch, Maj. Nidal Hasan appears for the sentencing phase of his trial at the Lawrence William Judicial Center Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, in Fort Hood, Texas. A military jury sentenced Hasan to death for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, handing the Army psychiatrist the ultimate punishment after a trial in which he seemed to be courting martyrdom by making almost no effort to defend himself.

(AP Photo/Brigitte Woosley)

only punishment the Army believed fit for an attack on fellow unarmed soldiers. The sentence was one that Hasan also appeared to seek in a self-proclaimed effort to become a martyr. The rare military death sentence came nearly four years after the attack that stunned even an Army hardened by more than a decade of constant war. Hasan walked into a medical building where soldiers were getting medical checkups, shouted "Allahu akbar" — Arabic for "God is great!" — and opened fire with a laser-sighted handgun. Thirteen people were killed.

Hasan could become the first U.S. soldier executed in more than half a century. But because the military justice system requires a lengthy appeals process, years or even decades could pass before he is put to death.

The U.S.-born Muslim has said he acted to protect Islamic insurgents abroad from American aggression, and he never denied being the gunman.

He acknowledged to the

jury that he pulled the trigger in a crowded waiting room where troops were getting final medical checkups before deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. Thirteen people were killed and more than 30 wounded. It was the worst ever attack on a U.S. military base. The same jurors who convicted Hasan last week needed to agree unanimously on a death sentence on Wednesday, though the 42-year-old faced a minimum sentence of life in prison.

The lead prosecutor assured jurors that Hasan would "never be a martyr" despite his attempt to tie the attack to religion.

"He is a criminal. He is a cold-blooded murderer," Col. Mike Mulligan said Wednesday in his final plea for a rare military death sentence.

Hasan made no statement Wednesday before the sentence and had no visible reaction when it was read. Officials said he will be transported on the first available military flight to the military prison at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

## Western wildfire 23 percent contained

BRIAN SKOLOFF  
TRACIE CONE  
Associated Press  
GROVELAND, California (AP) — The giant wildfire burning at the edge of Yosemite National Park is 23 percent contained, U.S. fire officials said Wednesday. The U.S. Forest Service said the fire has now consumed 293 square miles (758 sq. kilometers). Fire officials said they expect

full containment in three weeks but that the fire will burn for much longer than that.

"It's looking better every day," said incident spokesman Glen Stratton. "So far everything is holding."

The fire in northern California has destroyed 111 structures and threatened water supplies, hydroelectric power and giant sequoia trees — a state icon.

Some 4,500 structures remained threatened.

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## NYPD designate mosques as terrorism groups

**ADAM GOLDMAN**  
**MATT APUZZO**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The New York Police Department has secretly labeled entire mosques as terrorist organizations, a designation that allows police to use informants to record sermons and spy on imams, often without specific evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

Designating an entire mosque as a terrorism enterprise means that anyone who attends prayer services there is a potential subject of an investigation and fair game for surveillance.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks on the U.S., the NYPD has opened at least a dozen "terrorism enterprise investigations" into mosques, according to interviews and confidential police documents. The TEI, as it is known, is a police tool intended to help investigate terrorist cells and the like.

Many TEIs stretch for years, allowing surveillance to continue even though the NYPD has never criminally charged a mosque or Islamic organization with operating as a terrorism enterprise.

The documents show in detail how, in its hunt for terrorists, the NYPD investigated countless innocent New York Muslims and put information about them in secret police files. As a tactic, opening an enterprise investigation on a mosque is so potentially invasive that while the NYPD conducted at least a dozen, the FBI never did one, according to interviews with federal law enforcement officials.

The strategy has allowed the NYPD to send undercover officers into mosques and attempt to plant informants on the boards of

mosques and at least one prominent Arab-American group, whose executive director has worked with city officials.

The revelations about the NYPD's massive spying operations are in documents recently obtained by The Associated Press and part of a new book, "Enemies Within: Inside the NYPD's

berg and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly have denied those accusations. Speaking Wednesday on MSNBC, Kelly reminded people that his intelligence-gathering programs began in the wake of 9/11.

"We follow leads wherever they take us," Kelly said. "We're not intimidated

American Association of New York, a secular social-service organization.

Linda Sarsour, the executive director, said her group helps new immigrants adjust to life in the U.S. It was not clear whether the department was successful in its plans. The document, which appears to have been created around



**New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg listens to a supporter following a news conference announcing the officially opening of the new Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, in the Queens borough of New York. When asked about an Associated Press report that the New York Police Department has secretly labeled entire mosques as terrorist organizations, a designation that allows police to use informants to record sermons and spy on imams, Bloomberg responded, "What we do is we try to keep this city safe, totally consistent with what the laws require. We believe that we are compliant with those laws."**

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

Secret Spying Unit and bin Laden's Final Plot Against America." The book by AP reporters Matt Apuzzo and Adam Goldman is based on hundreds of previously unpublished police files and interviews with current and former NYPD, CIA and FBI officials.

The American Civil Liberties Union and two other groups have sued, saying the Muslim spying programs are unconstitutional and make Muslims afraid to practice their faith without police scrutiny.

Both Mayor Mike Bloom-

as to wherever that lead takes us. And we're doing that to protect the people of New York City."

The NYPD did not limit its operations to collecting information on those who attended the mosques or led prayers. The department sought also to put people on the boards of New York's Islamic institutions to fill intelligence gaps.

One confidential NYPD document shows police wanted to put informants in leadership positions at mosques and other organizations, including the Arab

2009, was prepared for Kelly and distributed to the NYPD's debriefing unit, which helped identify possible informants.

Around that time, Kelly was handing out medals to the Arab American Association's soccer team, smiling and congratulating its players for winning the NYPD's soccer league. Sarsour, a Muslim who has met with Kelly many times, said she felt betrayed.

"It creates mistrust in our organizations," said Sarsour, who was born and raised in the U.S. □

## Missouri guns bill could test limits in US law

**JOHN SCHWARTZ**  
© 2013 New York Times

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** - Unless a handful of wavering Democrats change their minds, the Republican-controlled Missouri legislature is expected to enact a statute next month nullifying all federal gun laws in the state and making it a crime for federal agents to enforce them here. A Missourian arrested under federal firearm statutes would even be able to sue the arresting officer. The law amounts to the most far-reaching states' rights endeavor in the country, the far edge of a growing movement known as "nullification" in which a state defies federal power.

The Missouri Republican Party thinks linking guns to nullification works well, said Matt Wills, the party's director of communications, thanks in part to the push by President Barack Obama for tougher gun laws. "It's probably one of the best states' rights issues that the country's got going right now," he said. The measure, which would seem certain to face a court challenge, was vetoed last month by Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat. But when the legislature gathers again Sept. 11, it will seek to override his veto. Nearly every Republican and a dozen Democrats appear likely to vote for the override. Richard G. Callahan, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, is concerned. He cited a recent joint operation of federal, state and local law enforcement officials that led to 159 arrests and the seizing of 267 weapons, and noted that the measure "would have outlawed such operations, and would have made criminals out of the law enforcement officers." □





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## US Financial Front:

# Pending sales of American homes slip but remain solid

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer Americans signed contracts to buy U.S. homes in July, but the level stayed close to a 6 ½-year high. The modest decline suggests higher mortgage rates have yet to sharply slow sales.

The National Association of Realtors says its seasonally adjusted index for pending home sales declined 1.3 percent to 109.5. That's close to May's reading of 111.3, which was the highest since December 2006. The small decline suggests sales of previously owned homes should remain healthy in the coming months. There is generally a one- to two-month lag be-

tween a signed contract and a completed sale.

Final sales jumped to an annual pace of 5.4 million in July, the highest in 3 ½ years, the Realtors said last week. That's consistent with a healthy housing market. Higher mortgage rates appeared to have had a bigger impact on new-home sales, which plummeted last month. That raised fears that rate increases were restraining the housing recovery.

But many economists note that home prices and mortgage rates remain low by historical standards. Consistent job gains and rising consumer confidence may also support sales in the coming months.

"Higher mortgage rates are



A sold sign hangs outside a home in Mt. Lebanon, Pa. The National Association of Realtors reported on the measure of the number of Americans who signed contracts to buy homes in July on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

clearly negative for housing, but other key drivers, including the labor market, confidence, and expecta-

tions for prices and interest rates still point to improvement," Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Fre-

quency Economics, said in a note to clients.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage reached 4.58 percent last week, the highest level in two years and up from 3.35 percent in early May. Still, that's below the average since 1985 of about 7 percent, according to Bankrate.com.

Mortgage rates began to rise after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke first signaled that the Fed might reduce its bond purchases later this year. The purchases have helped keep borrowing costs low. Rising home prices and more construction have boosted economic growth and created more jobs. □

## Unemployment rates fall in two-thirds of U.S. cities

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment rates fell in two-thirds of large U.S. metro areas in July, a sign of widespread improvement in the job market. The Labor Department says unemployment rates fell in 239 of the nation's 372 largest cities in July. That's the most since April. Rates rose in 103 and were unchanged in 30.

The U.S. unemployment

rate fell last month to a 4 ½-year low of 7.4 percent. That's down from 7.6 percent in June. Employers added 162,000 jobs. That's enough to lower the unemployment rate but below the average monthly gain of 192,000 this year.

Fewer cities are reporting unusually high unemployment rates. Forty-one cities reported a rate above 10 percent last month, down from 67 a year earlier. □

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## Explosions rip through Baghdad; sectarian strife feared

Continued from Front

Later, some local media reports said the bodies of the family members had been decapitated. In the evening, two more car bombs struck in Amel, a Shiite-dominated district, killing

six people. Meanwhile, as the explosions began ringing out across Baghdad in the morning, familiar scenes of panic and fear played out on the streets. In one neighborhood, a suspicious car was spotted near a parking lot.

"Car bomb!" yelled a traffic policeman. Pedestrians began panicking and running, not knowing which direction to go. Cars turned around, clogging the streets, as drivers rolled down their windows to prevent shattered glass from entering their vehicles.

After about four minutes the suspicious car exploded, sending a plume of black smoke skyward, killing seven people and injuring more than a dozen others, according to a security official.

The relentless series of coordinated attacks, which involved car bombs and suicide attackers, hit public markets, restaurants and a bus stop.

In Baghdad alone, at least 65 people were killed, officials said. Nationwide, the carnage left more than 80 people dead from attacks on soldiers and civilians in Babel, Kirkuk and Mosul.

For days before the strikes, the local news media published warnings by the government that a new wave of attacks was imminent, and security forces set up new checkpoints and other security measures. But in the end, the security forces were unable to stop the attacks, further undermining the confidence Iraqis have in the government to protect them.

In recent weeks, the security forces have undertaken a series of operations, mostly in Sunni neighbor-

hoods, as part of a campaign the government is calling "the revenge of the martyrs." The Shiite-dominated government claims to have arrested hundreds of Sunni extremists and discovered a factory that makes car bombs, but the operations have also further antagonized the Sunni community, with limited effect on reining in the violence.

The government has also engaged in a public relations campaign that appears to be aiming to minimize the level of violence by releasing statements in the wake of the attacks that state lower death tolls than those reported by other security officials. Around midday Wednesday, the Ministry of Interior published a statement online reporting that only 18 people had been killed. However, a government official, who for years has provided accurate casualty figures to the media, had already said that more than 60 people had been killed.

The surge in violence in Iraq is at least partly the result of spillover from the civil war in Syria, where al-Qaida-linked groups fostered by Iraqi extremists are some of the fiercest fighting units. The successes the group has had in Syria have emboldened Sunni extremists in Iraq, as well, to step up their fight here.

At the same time, the war has exacerbated sectarian tensions within Iraq as the country's Shiites have largely sided with the Syrian government, while Sunnis are backing the Syrian rebels. □



An Iraqi soldier inspects the scene of a car bomb attack in the Sha'ab neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013. A coordinated wave of bombings tore through Shiite Muslim areas in and around the Iraqi capital early Wednesday, killing scores and wounding many more, officials said. The blasts, which came in quick succession, targeted residents out shopping and on their way to work.

(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

## 160 quarantined after plague death in Kyrgyzstan

**BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)** — Four people have been hospitalized and 160 quarantined after a 15-year-old boy who ate marmot meat died of the bubonic plague last week, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health said Wednesday.

The ministry in the Central Asian nation said the boy told medics he spent the previous week camping

in the mountains where he had eaten barbecued marmot, a large ground squirrel that typically lives in mountainous areas. The Ministry of Health established a quarantine in parts of the mountainous northeast, but said there was no risk of an epidemic. Four residents in the boy's village were hospitalized on Wednesday after com-

plaining of fever, though none had contact with the boy. A high fever is a common symptom of many diseases, such as the flu or measles.

There are several thousand cases of bubonic plague every year worldwide. People usually catch the disease after being bitten by an infected insect or animal or coming into close

contact with an infected animal, like hunters removing an animal's skin. Bubonic plague is the most common type of plague and causes painful swollen lymph nodes called bubos. The disease swept across Europe in the Middle Ages, killing millions. These days, the disease is easily treated with antibiotics and can be cured if caught early. □





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## Italy repealing property tax in bid for stability

**MICHELE BARBERO**  
**Associated Press**

**ROME (AP)** — Italy's government agreed Wednesday to repeal an unpopular property tax that premier Silvio Berlusconi has long campaigned to abolish, a crucial deal for the survival of Premier Enrico Letta's unusual left-right coalition.

The Cabinet, which is made up of both Letta's Democrats and Berlusconi's center-right ministers, decided to cancel the payments through the end of the year and institute instead a local "service tax" starting in 2014, Letta told reporters.

Hawks in Berlusconi's party had warned that if the tax weren't abolished, the party would withdraw its support for Letta's government. As a result, Wednesday's decision to repeal the tax gives Letta's government some breathing room as it presses ahead with measures to revive Italy's moribund economy.

"This is good news," said Angelino Alfano, Berlusconi's political heir and the vice premier in the hybrid government. "For us it has the value of 'Mission Accomplished.'"

Details of the decree were still being worked out late Wednesday, and it wasn't immediately clear what the substitute "service tax" would mean in real terms for Italians struggling to make ends meet amid Italy's two-year recession and 12.1 percent unemployment rate.

Abolishing the property tax creates a 4 billion euro (\$5.3 billion) annual shortfall. □

## BoE's Carney takes his message to the public

**DANICA KIRKA**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — The Bank of England's new governor took his ideas for spurring Britain's sluggish economy on the road Wednesday, traveling to the heart of the country to convince households and managers that interest rates will remain low and that he won't follow the U.S. in reining in the bank's stimulus

to spend responsibly and businesses to invest wisely," Carney said.

Carney's main mission is to shore up the British economy, which has lagged behind competitors in rebounding from the worst global recession since the 1930s. While the U.S. economy has grown 5 percent over the past five years and China by more than 50 percent, the U.K. still

spend. The U.S. Federal Reserve has had such guidance for years.

However, Carney's initial guidance earlier this month generated some unwanted uncertainty.

On Aug. 1, the governor said the U.K.'s benchmark rate would remain at a record-low 0.5 percent until unemployment fell from the current 7.8 percent to 7 percent — or about three

comes and spending are recovering at a sustainable pace," he insisted.

"The Bank of England's task now is to secure the fledgling recovery, to allow it to develop into a period of sustained and robust growth," he said. "We aim to get there in part by reducing the uncertainty that has held back growth."

Carney spoke in simple language, ignoring the qualifications and "knock-outs" that helped obscure the guidance he made on Aug. 1 that made analysts wary. He also touched on bigger themes. On the international arena, he explained that Britain must detach its monetary policy from that of the U.S.

"While much has been made of the special relationship between the U.S. and U.K., it is not so special that the possibility of a reduction in the pace of additional stimulus in the U.S. warrants a current reduction in the degree of monetary stimulus in the U.K.," Carney said.

Carney said the bank stood ready to launch more economy-boosting measures — including the possibility of stimulating the economy further.

He also unveiled plans that could boost the amount available to banks to lend by 90 billion pounds (\$139 billion.) He said once all eight major banks and building societies meet new capital requirements, they would be allowed to reduce asset holdings elsewhere on their balance sheets.

"That will help to underpin the supply of credit, since every pound currently held in liquid assets is a pound that could be lent to the real economy," he said at the event. □



**Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, center, arrives to address business leaders in Nottingham, England, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013. Carney's first policy speech as Bank of England governor was his chance to address investor doubts that he can keep interest rates on hold at a record low until at least late 2016.**

efforts just yet.

Mark Carney used the speech in Nottingham — a city 110 miles north of the bank's offices in the City of London — to talk directly to the backbone of the U.K. economy: the owners of small and medium sized businesses.

"The knowledge that interest rates will stay low until the recovery is well established should give greater confidence to households

produces 3 percent less than it did at the start of the recession, Carney said. Carney's main act since taking the helm at the start of July has been to introduce an element of "forward guidance" to the bank's monetary policy. The idea is that, by indicating that borrowing costs won't shoot up for some time, businesses and households would be encouraged to invest and

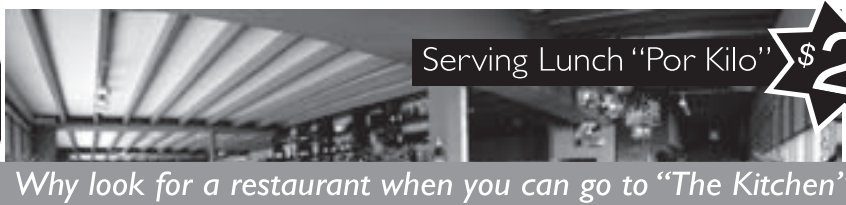
years. Many economists thought the unemployment threshold introduced meant interest rates may actually end up rising far sooner than expected and Britain's borrowing rates in the markets rose.

In his speech at the University of Nottingham, Carney went further. The 7 percent threshold would not necessarily trigger an interest rate rise. The bank won't raise interest rates until "jobs, in-

(AP Photo/Nigel Roddis)



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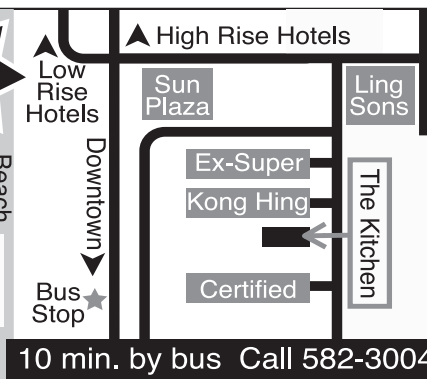


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## Egypt police arrest Brotherhood members' relatives

**AYA BATRAWY**  
**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egyptian authorities detained more than 60 people associated with the Muslim Brotherhood in less than 24 hours, including relatives of the group's leaders, officials said Wednesday.

The crackdown on the group, from which ousted President Mohammed Morsi hails, started shortly after the July 3 coup. It intensified this month after security forces cleared out two of the group's sit-ins, killing hundreds and sparking unrest that killed more than 1,000 people in a few days.

The Interior Ministry says more than 100 policemen and soldiers have also been killed since mid-August.

The local media, in close step with the new leadership after Morsi, repeatedly describe the actions of the Brotherhood and its supporters as acts of terrorism. Many have been charged with inciting violence. Security forces have arrested much the Brotherhood's senior and midlevel leader-

ship, while others remain in hiding.

Some in Egypt fear the Brotherhood's once powerful political party and its allies could be barred from politics and be forced underground again.

In an interview late Tuesday with the Arabic satellite channel MBC Misr, in-

terim Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi said dissolving the group is not a solution and warned against taking dramatic decisions during turbulent times.

He suggested it is better that the government monitor political parties rather than force any to operate secretly, as the group had

done for decades.

But in a widening campaign, police have started going after members' relatives, including the son of Khairat el-Shater, a Brotherhood deputy and financier charged in relation to the killings of protesters outside the group's headquarters in June. □



**Demonstrators chant slogans during a protest against ousted President Hosni Mubarak's release from prison, in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013. Egyptian authorities detained more than 60 people associated with the Muslim Brotherhood in less than 24 hours, including relatives of the group's leaders, officials said Wednesday.**

(AP Photo/Leffteris Pitarakis)

### Minister:

## Tunisia salafis getting orders from al-Qaida

**TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)** — Al-Qaida has been giving Tunisia's radical Muslims orders to destabilize the country, the nation's top security official said Wednesday.

Interior Minister Lotfi Ben Jeddou's news conference follows the announcement the day before that Ansar al-Shariah, the country's most prominent organization of ultraconservative Muslims known as salafis, was a terrorist organization.

Ben Jeddou presented evidence, including taped confessions and a document allegedly written by the group's leader, Seifallah Ben Hassine, pledging allegiance to al-Qaida.

Tunisia overthrew its secular dictatorship in January 2011 but its transition to democracy has been hampered by terrorist attacks, political assassinations and the rise of salafi groups. Ennahda, the moderate Islamist party that dominated elections, has been criticized by the opposition for turning a blind eye to the excesses of the salafi groups, but in recent months the government has taken a harder line. The presentation included the videotaped confession of Ansar al-Shariah member Mohammed Akkari, who fought against U.S. forces in Iraq in 2004 before being captured and imprisoned in the notorious Abu Ghraib prison. He was later extradited to Tunisia and put in jail, only to be released after the revolution, along with Ben Hassine and other future members of the radical group. □

## Iran approves bill to sue US over 1953 coup

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran's parliament gave preliminary approval Wednesday to a bill requiring the government to sue the U.S. for its involvement in the 1953 coup that overthrew the country's democratically elected prime minister. The bill follows the release of newly declassified documents offering more details of how the CIA orchestrated the overthrow of Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddegh 60 years ago.

It calls for setting up a committee to study the issue and provide a report within

six months before legal action is launched against the U.S. government in an international court.

Of 196 lawmakers attending the session of parliament, 167 voted in favor of the bill while five opposed it. The session was broadcast live on state radio.

The coup restored the despotic regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He was overthrown in the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Lawmaker Mahdi Mousavinejad said Iran should take legal action and make the U.S. take responsibility for its

actions.

"America's oppressive behavior (in 1953) shows that the Iranian nation has to stand up and pursue its trampled rights," he said.

But Mohammad Mahdi Rahbari, another lawmaker, opposed the bill, saying it won't bring anything tangible for Iran.

"Pursuing this bill has no benefits for our country. It will waste the parliament's time," he said.

Lawmakers said the documents prove that the U.S. has a history of bad intentions toward Iran and that

the admission was sufficient evidence to get compensation. In a document revealed earlier this month titled "The Battle for Iran," the CIA reveals the coup plan was called "Operation TPAJAX."

The unnamed author of the history writes that previously published accounts miss the point that "the military coup that overthrew Mosaddegh ... was carried out under CIA direction as an act of U.S. foreign policy, conceived and approved at the highest levels of government." □



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## UN peacekeeper killed in eastern Congo fighting

**KRISTA S. MWANAMILONGO**  
**Associated Press**  
**KINSHASA, Congo (AP)** —

U.N. forces and the Congolese army attacked rebel positions with helicopter gunships, armored personnel carriers and a phalanx of ground troops Wednesday, ramping up the U.N.'s engagement in the latest rebellion to roil the country's tormented east. The U.N. also announced one of its peacekeepers had been killed during the assault, which also has included mortar and artillery fire. Seven other U.N. troops were wounded, U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said in New York without announcing further details. The fighting is taking place nine miles (15 kilometers) from the provincial capital of Goma, a city home to nearly 1 million people that was briefly captured

by the M23 rebels late last year. The U.N. involvement in the latest flare-up of violence is in sharp contrast to November, when the U.N. peacekeeping mission, known as MONUSCO, stood by as the rebels overtook Goma because their mandate was only to protect civilians. The stepped-up U.N. intervention brigade, created by the Security Council in March, is authorized to take the offensive against the rebels. "It's already changing the equation. For now, I would shy away from calling it a game changer. It's certainly unprecedented not only for Congo, but for peacekeeping itself and the U.N. at large," said Timo Mueller, a Goma-based researcher with the Enough Project, an advocacy group active in east-

ern Congo. Even as forces pounded the rebels, U.N. officials continued to send mixed

messages about the extent of their involvement, repeatedly saying they were merely "backing" or

"supporting" the Congolese military, rather than leading the offensive themselves. □



Angry residents take to the streets to protest recent violence including mortar attacks that have struck homes and churches in the eastern provincial capital in Goma, Congo.

(AP Photo/Joseph Kay)

## China confirms raid on alleged terror cell in Xinjiang

**C. BODEEN**  
**Associated Press**  
**BEIJING (AP)** — China confirmed Wednesday that police conducted a raid last week on an alleged terrorist cell in the restive northwestern region of Xinjiang, although details about the death toll and identities of those killed in the bloody incident remain sketchy.

Officials have refused to discuss the Aug. 20 incident, the latest in a series of clashes this year that have killed dozens of people and led to scores of arrests. However, the official Kashgar Daily newspaper reported the raid in an article Wednesday on a memorial service held for policeman Yan Xiaofei, who was killed in the clash. The newspa-

per said the 32-year-old SWAT team deputy commander was killed while taking part in an action to "deal with a band of violent terrorists." It said he fought in the vanguard of the action, but did not say how he died. Citing Xinjiang police and government sources, U.S. government-funded station Radio Free Asia said 22 members of the region's native Uighur (WEE'-gur) ethnic group were killed in the raid and their bodies were buried in the desert without their relatives being notified. The station said police had been monitoring the group from a helicopter for a week as they gathered at a house in Yilkiqi township in the southwestern Xinjiang prefecture of

Kashgar. It said police attacked while members of the group were performing Muslim prayers, and that they found six axes and knives at the scene. An officer reached by phone at Kashgar police headquarters said he wasn't authorized to say anything about the incident and then hung up. Calls to county and township government offices rang unanswered and an official with the Kashgar Communist Party propaganda office asked for questions to be sent by fax. Xinjiang has long been wracked by violence between authorities and members of the Uighur community who resent Chinese dominance of the economy and chafe at restrictions on their unique

Central Asian culture and Muslim religion. This year has seen an unusually large number of clashes, however, including police firing on angry crowds and fighting between gangs of radicals and the security forces. Militants typically armed only with bladed weapons and homemade explosives are heavily outgunned by an overwhelming security presence, while the authorities often respond to clashes with crackdowns and mass arrests. Information about such incidents is tightly controlled and it is usually impossible to confirm the facts of individual clashes. Even non-violent activity can be punished with heavy prison sentences if it is determined to be subver-

sive or extremist in nature. On Wednesday, the website of the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily announced the sentencing of nine men to up to life in prison on charges of inciting ethnic hatred, ethnic discrimination, and conducting illegal religious activities. Germany-based Uighur activist Dilshat Rexit said the heavy sentences were intended to intimidate and threaten the native population and the court proceedings lacked transparency. "The goal is to divert attention from the real reasons Uighurs are protesting. The court's decision is made according to China's political needs," Rexit, whose name is also spelled Dilxat Raxit, said by telephone. □



## Castro pens essay on Syria, Snowden

**PETER ORSI**

**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Fidel Castro can't stay away.

Despite a vow to retire from his second career as a columnist last year, the 87-year-old revolutionary whose interests range from the nutrition benefits of a leafy plant called moringa to the threat of nuclear Armageddon apparently still has a lot to say about world events.

The former president published a new essay Wednesday that took up nearly a

ingly read out in their entirety by serious-faced news anchors.

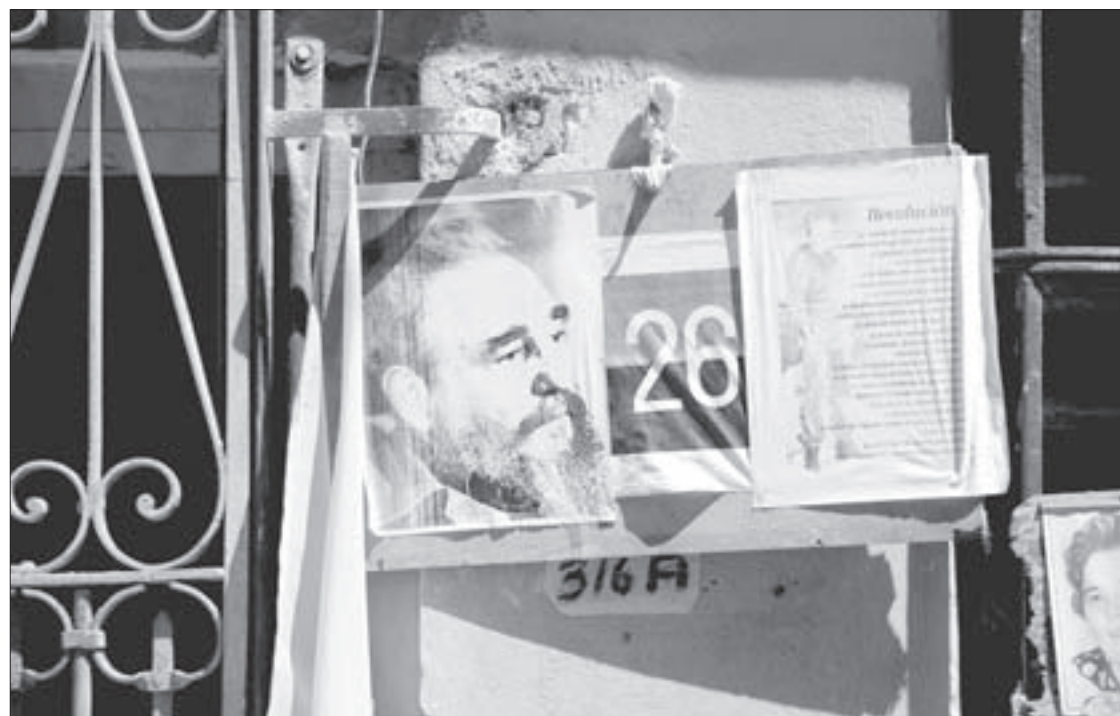
In June 2012, Castro announced that his columnist days were over. He said at the time that his musings, some of which were increasingly brief and mysterious, were taking up valuable media space.

But the famously loquacious leader has been unable to resist the temptation to weigh in on our troubled world.

In April he published a "Reflection" urging restraint

ezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's tour of a visiting Russian naval vessel, to the crisis in Egypt and our impersonal technological future.

"It is said that by 2040, just 27 years from now, many tasks that today are carried out by the police such as handing out tickets and other tasks, will be done by robots," Castro wrote. "Can readers imagine how difficult it will be to argue with a robot capable of making millions of calculations per minute?"



**Images of Cuba's former leader, Fidel Castro, adorn a wall of a home in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013. Castro said last year he was ending his second career as a columnist. But the retired leader is apparently so consumed by world affairs that he's making a comeback.**  
(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

full page in the Communist Party newspaper Granma, warning of dire consequences from the conflict in Syria. He also denied a Russian newspaper report that alleged Cuba caved in to U.S. pressure and refused to grant NSA leaker Edward Snowden transit en route to Latin America, calling it a "paid-for lie."

"I admire the bravery and justness in Snowden's declarations," Castro wrote. "In my opinion, he did the world a service by revealing the repugnantly dishonest politics of an empire that lies and cheats the world."

Castro left office in 2006 due to a life-threatening intestinal ailment. But for years afterward, state newspapers continued to carry his semi-regular essays called "Reflections." They were also painstakingly

amid elevated tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Last month state media carried a letter of his about the seizure in Panama of Cuban weaponry bound for North Korea.

This time it's the escalating talk of military intervention in Syria that inspired Castro to pick up his pen.

"I am compelled to write because very soon grave things will happen," Castro wrote. "In our time, no more than 10 or 15 years go by without the human race being in danger of extinction."

"The Empire's Navy and Air Force and their allies are preparing to begin a genocide against the Arab people," he added.

In typical Castro style the column meanders somewhat, touching on everything from the U.S. embargo against Cuba and Ven-

Castro has appeared in public only a few times this year. In July he was absent from an event commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution's start that was attended by key allies such as Maduro. Castro's brother and successor, Raul, presided over the celebrations.

Cuba's Foreign Ministry also criticized Washington and its allies on Syria on Wednesday.

"An aggression against Syria would provoke the gravest consequences for the already troubled Middle East region," it said in a statement.

"It would constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of the charter of the United Nations and international law, and it would increase the dangers to international peace and security." □

## CARIBBEAN NEWS BRIEFS

### Trinidad attorney fatally shot at shopping mall

**PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP)** — A prominent attorney in Trinidad & Tobago was fatally shot by a gunman as he sat in his parked car outside of a crowded shopping mall. Police have not released a motive into the Tuesday killing of Wesley Debideen but they say it was a "clear hit." The 68-year-old attorney was shot once in the head and several times in the torso at the Grand Bazaar's parking lot on the outskirts of the capital of Port-of-Spain. Witnesses say the gunman sped off in red Mazda. Debideen represented the head of the twin-island country's Hindu Credit Union during a fact-finding inquiry into the 2009 collapse of failed Caribbean insurance company Clico. □

### Puerto Rico to probe wage hike for 19 mayors

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Puerto Rico's justice secretary is investigating pay raises given to 19 mayors in the U.S. territory amid an economic crisis. Luis Sanchez Betances said Tuesday that the municipalities being targeted have 10 days to hand over all documents related to the salary increases. He says he began the investigation following public complaints and concerns about the effect the raises could have on the island's crumbling public pension system. Sanchez says mayors will have to repay the money they earned if justice officials find their increases to be without merit. Officials say this is an ongoing investigation. □

### Hotel entertainment manager slain in Jamaica

**KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)** — Authorities say a popular entertainment coordinator in Jamaica's north coast tourism industry has been fatally stabbed and his house set ablaze. Police say the nude body of Dean Moriah was found early Tuesday wrapped in a towel a short distance from his burned house in the tourist city of Montego Bay. Neighbors in the neighborhood of Bogue Village reported flames coming from the home at about 3:20 a.m. and rushed to help put out the fire. They found Moriah's body in the yard with multiple stab wounds. There have been no arrests. The 41-year-old Jamaican had worked as an entertainment coordinator at a number of tourist hotels in Montego Bay and Negril. □

### Dominican judge orders sect chief to face trial

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — The German leader of a New Age sect in the Dominican Republic has been ordered to face trial on weapons charges. Judge Yacaira Veras ruled Tuesday there is enough evidence to try Peter Brunck along with his son, Daniel Roland. Both men were arrested in a deadly October 2012 raid but have since been released on bail. The 62-year-old Brunck is the leader of a religious group known as the "Academy for Future Health." Police killed a member of the sect and seized rifles and assault weapons in the raid. The group had permits for the rifles but assault weapons are illegal in the Dominican Republic. Both men deny committing any crimes. □

### Puerto Rico man accused in child beating death

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Puerto Rico police say a man has been charged with attempted murder in the beating death of his 6-year-old stepson. The boy's mother has been charged with child abuse and concealing a crime. Police said Wednesday that the couple is in jail on \$30 million bond. Authorities said they received a 911 call on Monday about the boy, who was found unconscious and naked inside a large bucket covered with a piece of cardboard on a beach in the western town of Rincon. Police said the boy is hospitalized and recovering from a fractured skull and other injuries. □





## Paseo Herencia inducts two Aruban athletes to "Wall of Fame"



PALM BEACH - Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall GM Valerie Pietersz-Camacho and Marketing Manager Candy Rasmijn were very proud to welcome to dynamic young island athletes and their families to celebrate international victories that have merited the young men a place on the mall's "Wall of Fame." The Paseo Herencia "Wall of Fame" is filling up with island youth who have accomplished great things on the playing fields and in swimming pools of the global arena. These athletes have trained hard and demonstrated they have the discipline and

heart to "go the distance," and bring home the medals that make their countrymen proud.

On Thursday evening, August 22, it was 14 year old tennis player Patrick Sydow and Gilberto Boerleider, who claimed 3 gold medals and the World Championship in his age division in the martial art of Tang Soo Do.

In December of last year, Patrick earned the Sub-Champion Trophy for under 14 year old tennis players during the International Junior Orange Bowl in Coral Gables, Florida. His parents, Frans, who was also highly seeded on the ten-



nis circuit in his youth, and his mother, Pilar were very proud to see his picture unveiled on the Wall of Fame by Aruba's Minister of Health and Sports, Richard Visser and Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn.

Gilberto's unveiling was attended by parents and grandparents as well as a representative of the local Tae Kwan Do Association. Gilberto's chosen disci-

pline of Tang Soo Do also originates in Korea, incorporating fighting principles from subak and techniques from northern and southern Chinese kung fu, pre-dating the popular tae kwan do. Gilbert took the Black Belt World Championship title in his age division during the meet in Germany in early June of this year.

Minister Visser introduced the two young men to the audience in the Plaza Padu prior to the official unveiling of their tribute photos. He cited how important they are as role models to other young islanders, "as they

demonstrate the rewards of determination and tenacity to excel and be the best you can be, at whatever you choose to do. They embody the philosophy we hope to see all Arubans adopt, of maintaining a healthy mind in a healthy body."

"We are very pleased to add these two determined young athletes to our Wall of Fame," commented Valerie Pieterz-Camacho. "They have accomplished much at very young ages, and we expect more great things from them in the future." □





# First Dutch Astronaut in space gives inspiring lecture



**EAGLE BEACH** –Wubbo Ockels gave an interesting and insightful lecture recently to local tourism industry representatives. The lecture delivered an in-

spirational discourse about the use of natural resources, and the need to care for the environment. The speaker also shared his experience as the first

Dutch Astronaut in space and how this experience created his interest in sustainable living and propelled him to educate other people to live a more sustainable life and to foster ideas which preserve our natural resources.

The associates attending the lecture enjoyed the event, which attracted guests from a few different resorts.

Wubbo Johannes Ockels is a Dutch physicist, astronaut and pilot. In 1985 he was the first Dutchman to fly through space. He is cur-



rently a professor of Aerospace for Sustainable Science and Technology at the faculty of Aerospace engineering of the Delft University of Technology. □

## Folkeringa beach tennis event this weekend!

**EAGLE BEACH** - BTA and Folkeringa tax consultant will organize the 8th ranking event of 2013 at Eagle beach! Folkeringa is our official tax consultant. Alex Mingozi and Nicolo Strano (ITF World top ten ranked) and winners of the last 2 world cups in New York and Bermuda will join us at Eagle beach! So come and check it out this weekend at Eagle. The event will take place at Eagle beach where we expect around 300 participants to play over the weekend in all categories, levels and ages. 14 Courts will be set up, plenty tents with shade and seating area as well as a lounge area with bean bags. Food and ice cold drinks will be available at the BTA bar. Every one can play at their own level from Beginner to Pro. Levels : Fun(beginner), Intermediate, Advanced and Open. Categories : Singles, mix doubles, doubles. The Youth tournament on the Saturday afternoon will have only doubles in the levels Fun, Intermediate and Advanced. **P r o g r a m :** Saturday August 31: 9am – 2pm: Singles. 2pm – 6pm: Mix doubles. 2pm – 6pm: Youth.



Sunday September 1: 10am – 6pm : Men- & women doubles. Registration at: <http://www.beachtennisaruba.com/events/> For standings and more information about this tournament surf to [www.beachtennisaruba.com](http://www.beachtennisaruba.com) and go to 'Ranking 2013'. If you want to try the fastest growing sport on the island, just go to Moomba beach bar (located between Holiday Inn and Marriott) or Tropicana and rent a court with paddle racquets for only \$ 5.- per person! BTA is powered by: ArkeFly, Amstel Bright, Alno EuroKitchen, AMC Unicon, Arubianas, Coppertone, Boolchand's, Folkeringa tax consultant, Pringles, RBC Royal Bank, Senor Frog's, Setar and Wema. □

**Beauty On The Beach**

**Anna Maria Caruson**

She is from Casurta, a town close to Napoli, in Italy. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon.



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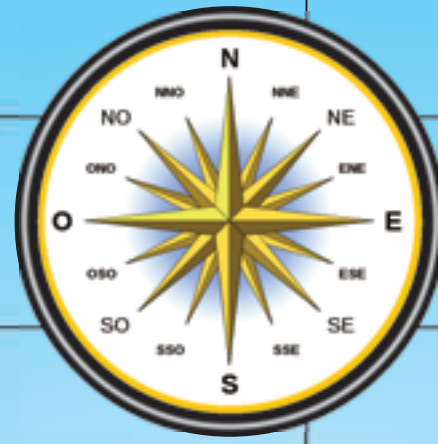
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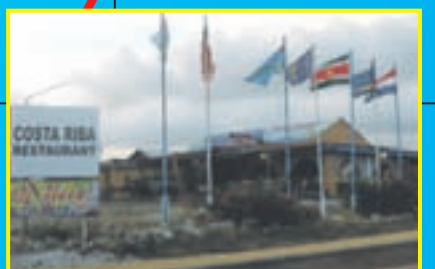
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Los Angeles Galaxy's Landon Donovan celebrates after scoring a goal against the Vancouver Whitecaps during the first half of an MLS soccer game in Vancouver, British Columbia, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2013.

Associated Press

## Landon Donovan re-signs with Los Angeles Galaxy

**GREG BEACHAM**  
AP Sports Writer

**CARSON, Calif. (AP)** — Landon Donovan has signed a multiyear contract extension with the Los Angeles Galaxy, keeping the United States forward with his MLS club. The Galaxy announced the deal Wednesday with Donovan, whose current contract was up at the end of the season. The 31-year-old Donovan has been with the Galaxy since 2005, winning three of his five career MLS Cup titles with Los Angeles. He is the third-leading goal-scorer in MLS history, trailing leader Jeff Cunningham by just three goals. Donovan also is the U.S. national team's career scoring leader, playing in the last three World Cups. He took a self-imposed sabbatical after the Galaxy's MLS Cup victory last December, only returning to the Galaxy in late March. He also returned to the U.S. national team last month. □



Boston Red Sox's Shane Victorino hits a two-run double against the Baltimore Orioles during the seventh inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2013. Victorino homered twice and drove in a career-high seven runs to lead the Red Sox to a 13-2 victory over the Orioles.

Associated Press

## Victorino powers BoSox past O's 13-2

**BOSTON (AP)** — Shane Victorino homered twice and drove in a career-high seven runs to lead the Boston Red Sox to a 13-2 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday night. Felix Doubront pitched 6 2-3 innings of four-hit ball for AL East-leading Boston. Victorino also had a two-run double in the seventh, and Dustin Pedroia had three hits for the Red Sox. J.J. Hardy and Danny Valencia each had two of Baltimore's four hits. Wei-Yin Chen (7-7) lasted just 3 2-3 innings, allowing eight runs and eight hits. He struck out five, walked three and hit a batter. Doubront (10-6) had only one bad inning, allowing the first four batters in Bal-

timore's two-run third to reach. But he retired 14 of the next 16 before leaving to a standing ovation from the Fenway Park crowd of 36,226. **ANGELS 6, RAYS 5**  
**ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)** — Erick Aybar drove in four runs to help the Los Angeles Angels rallied from a four-run deficit to get the win. Aybar hit a two-run double off closer Fernando Rodney (5-4) to put the Angels up 6-5 in the ninth. Peter Bourjos stole second and went to third when center fielder Desmond Jennings misplayed J.B. Shuck's fly ball for a two-base error. Aybar then followed with the key hit.

Aybar also had a two-run single during a three-run seventh that made it 5-4. Jose Molina had three hits and three RBIs for Tampa Bay, which has lost three in a row. The Rays, leading the AL wild-card race, are 2½ games behind AL East-leading Boston. After Ernesto Frieri (2-4) pitched a scoreless eighth, Dane De La Rosa got the final three outs for his second save. **YANKEES 7, BLUE JAYS 1**  
**TORONTO (AP)** — Alfonso Soriano hit two home runs and Andy Pettitte pitched seven shutout innings as the Yankees beat the Blue Jays after losing Robinson Cano in the first inning. Alex Rodriguez and Mark

Reynolds also homered for the Yankees, who won for the 13th time in 15 meetings with Toronto this season. Rodriguez hit a two-out solo shot in the seventh for his 651st career home run and second in two games. Soriano's homers, both of which were hit on the first pitch, were the 399th and 400th of his career. Cano sustained a bruised left hand after being struck by a pitch from left-hander J.A. Happ (3-4). X-rays were negative, and the Yankees said Cano is day to day. Eduardo Nunez, who replaced Cano, appeared to injure his right leg while covering second base in the eighth.

Continued on Page 21



# Lindsey Vonn nearing return to snow

PAT GRAHAM  
AP Sports Writer

**VAIL, Colorado (AP)** — Lindsey Vonn dropped into a skier's tuck as if she were trying to gain a little extra speed on a downhill course.

Only, this was simply while balancing on a ball at a local gym. Soon, that could actually take place on snow.

Vonn's surgically repaired right knee is nearly fully healed and she plans to ski this weekend in Portillo, Chile.

For the moment, the plan is to have Vonn ski with the U.S. team, just a few easy runs to test out her knee. But later at the camp, she's hoping to navigate through some slalom gates and maybe, just maybe — knee willing, of course — even open it up on the course.

"But my expectations

are sometimes a little bit out of whack," Vonn said Wednesday after a 30-minute workout.

The four-time overall World Cup champion is eyeing a possible return to competition in late November at a stop in Beaver Creek, Colorado, which is near her hometown of Vail. That's about three months ahead of the Sochi Olympics in February, where she will defend her downhill title.

Vonn shredded two ligaments and broke a bone during a bad crash at the world championships in Schladming, Austria, more than six months ago. At the time, it looked as if the Sochi Games might be in question for her.

That no longer appears to be the case. She said her knee is feeling so good these days that she no longer needs to ice it after workouts.

"It's about 98 percent equal (to the good knee)," said Vonn, the scar on her knee barely visible.

To build up her knee, Vonn spends about four hours a day in the gym under the supervision of trainer Martin Hager. On this day, she warmed up on the treadmill and then went through a series of stretching exercises, most of which designed to increase her balance and stability.

"Light workout," she said, with a laugh.

Listening to everything from Selena Gomez to rapper Wiz Khalifa, Vonn breezed through the workout, hardly even needing a break.

"She's doing great," Hager said. "We're happy with her progress from her knee injury. We're very happy."

Although Vonn is optimistic about her skiing in Chile, Hager remains more grounded. His goal is to



Lindsey Vonn works out with Red Bull coach Martin Hager in Vail, Colo., Wednesday Aug. 28, 2013. Vonn's surgically repaired right knee is nearly fully healed and she plans to ski this weekend. The four-time overall World Cup champion is looking at a possible return to competition in late November in Beaver Creek, Colo. That's three months ahead of the Sochi Olympics, where she will defend her downhill title.

Associated Press

have her get down the hill with no swelling in the knee. "That will be the focus for the first few days," he said.

"Just skiing without any pain. No reaction of the knee. That will be the most important factor." □

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# Li, Radwanska win early, avoid rain at U.S. Open

**EDDIE PELLIS**

**AP National Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Li Na got her work done quickly Wednesday at the U.S. Open, so when the rain started falling, she had little to worry about.

The fifth-seeded Li defeated Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson 6-2, 6-2 in the day's first

match at Arthur Ashe Stadium to advance to the third round. Shortly afterward, heavy rain came and Li's only concern was finding an umbrella.

"It's tough for them," she said, referring to the 58 players who still had singles matches to complete Wednesday. "For me, just

relax all day and do whatever I want."

Five matches were wrapped up before the rain, including 18th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro's 6-3, 6-4 victory over American CoCo Vandeweghe and third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska's 6-0, 7-5 victory over Maria-Teresa Torro-



Li Na, of China, returns a shot against Sofia Arvidsson, of Sweden, during the second round of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

Flor of Spain.

Radwanska dropped only seven points during a 21-minute first set, but the second lasted 66 minutes. Long, but not too long.

"Sometimes it's good to play first, even when I have to wake up really early," Radwanska said, referring to the rain.

Other early winners were 32nd-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and, on the men's side, one-time top-10 player Marcos Baghdatis.

Serena Williams' match was scrubbed from Wednesday's schedule.

After a rain delay ate up most of the afternoon, tournament officials postponed eight women's singles matches but kept others on the slate, including the night session involving defending men's champion Andy Murray and American Sloane Stephens.

With the storm bearing down, video monitors around the Billie Jean King Tennis Center warned fans to seek shelter and avoid trees because of potential lightning, though thousands of ticketholders were milling about without much concern for severe weather.

Many are used to this scene.

The season's last Grand Slam tournament has finished a day late for five straight years because of rain delays.

This year, the U.S. Tennis Association announced plans to build a roof over Arthur Ashe Stadium as part of a renovation project that will cost \$550 million. The roof could be ready by 2016, or 2017 at the latest.

Even that wouldn't have alleviated a first-week logjam the likes of which the tournament faced Wednesday, with a full slate of matches in singles along with men's, women's and mixed doubles.

During a brief halt to the storm, 2009 men's champion Juan Martin del Potro made it onto the court, earned an early break against Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain, then had to go back to the locker room when the rain returned.

Next door, at Armstrong Stadium, Venus Williams played two points against Zheng Jie, then went inside again.

Li was among the few who could plan on watching those matches from her hotel room.

"I'm happy," she said. "Because at least I'm done with my job for the day." □

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# Kershaw struggles in Dodgers' 3-2 loss to Cubs

The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP) — LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Travis

Wood outpitched Clayton Kershaw in a matchup of All-Star lefties, and Dioner Navarro and Starlin Castro had run-scoring singles to help the Chicago Cubs beat the Dodgers 3-2 Tuesday night, ending an eight-game skid against first-place Los Angeles.

After losing 6-2 against Zack Greinke in the series opener, the Cubs caught Kershaw on a decidedly off-night for the ace who came in with a major league-leading 1.72 ERA. Kershaw's streak of 18 scoreless innings, dating to Aug. 17, ended in the third when the Cubs took a 1-0 lead.

Wood (8-10) allowed one unearned run and five hits in seven innings. He struck out six and walked two for his first victory since July 28 at San Francisco.

Kevin Gregg pitched the ninth to earn his 27th save in 32 chances.

**METS 5, PHILLIES 0**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jonathan Niese pitched a three-hitter and had a three-run double, helping the Mets end a five-game losing streak.

Niese struck out five and walked one in his second career shutout in 112 major league starts. The Mets won several hours after trading veterans Marlon Byrd and John Buck to Pittsburgh.

Niese (6-6) handled matters at the plate and on the mound. He retired 17 straight batters and scored the first run by running through third base coach Tim Teufel's late stop sign. Niese improved to 3-0 in four starts since coming off the disabled list because of a partially torn rotator cuff. The Phillies had won five of their previous six under interim manager Ryne Sandberg. Kyle Kendrick (10-11) went six innings and allowed five runs, only one earned.

**CARDINALS 6, REDS 1**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Joe Kelly tossed six strong innings and Matt Holliday drove in a run for a seventh straight game to help lift St. Louis

over Cincinnati.

St. Louis has won six of seven, including the first two games of this three-game set. The first-place Cardinals have won eight of their last 10 against the third-place Reds and lead them by 4½ games in the NL Central.

The Cards also moved 1½ games ahead of second-place Pittsburgh.

Shin-Soo Choo homered for Cincinnati, which lost for the fourth time in five games. The Cardinals retired the last 13 Cincinnati batters, dropping the Reds to 4-10 against St. Louis this season.

Kelly (6-3), who allowed one run and eight hits, improved to 6-0 in nine starts since rejoining the starting rotation on July 6.

Holliday, who went 2 for 3, keyed a two-run outburst in the first against Mat Latos (13-5), who gave up four runs and nine hits over six-plus innings.

**BREWERS 7, PIRATES 6**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Aramis Ramirez had three hits, including his 350th career home run, and drove in four runs as Milwaukee edged Pittsburgh.

The 16-year veteran third baseman helped stake the Brewers to a 5-0 in the fifth inning, but the Pirates rallied to tie it in the sixth. Milwaukee pulled out the win when rookie pinch-hitter Caleb Gindl hit a tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning.

With the game tied 6-6, Rafael Betancourt hit a one-out double off Bryan Morris (5-7) and took third on Scooter Gennett's single. Gindl then lifted a fly to right that scored Betancourt and gave the Brewers their third victory in four games.

Pittsburgh, which trails St. Louis in the NL Central race, lost its third in a row. Pedro Alvarez went 4-for-4 with a walk, and hit his NL-leading 32nd home run for the Pirates.

**DIAMONDBACKS 10, PADRES 9, 10 INNINGS**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Aaron Hill lined a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning to give Arizona the victory.



Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Travis Wood throws to the plate during the first inning of their baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

With Hill at-bat and runners on second and third, the Padres employed a five-man infield. Hill lined a shot over the head of left fielder Yonder Alonzo for his eighth career game-ending hit.

Adam Eaton opened the 10th with a single to center, and Paul Goldschmidt sin-

win.

**NATIONALS 2, MARLINS 1**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Ross Ohlendorf pitched into the sixth inning, Ian Desmond had three hits, and Washington beat Miami.

Ohlendorf (3-0) pitched five innings of two-hit ball before Christian Yelich led off the sixth with his second

six-game homestand with its sixth victory in seven games.

Yelich had two hits for Miami, which has lost six of seven. Nathan Eovaldi (2-5) allowed two runs — both in the first — and eight hits in six innings.

**GIANTS 5, ROCKIES 3**

**DENVER (AP)** — Hunter Pence and Pablo Sandoval hit back-to-back homers, and Yusmeiro Petit won his first game in four years, helping San Francisco beat Colorado.

Pence and Sandoval went deep in the opening inning, marking the first time all season the Giants have hit back-to-back homers. Brandon Belt had four singles and scored twice for San Francisco, which won for the third time in four games.

Petit (1-0) was recently called up from Triple-A Fresno to fill in for Matt Cain, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list last week. Petit lasted six innings, allowed six hits and two runs.

Sergio Romo pitched a perfect ninth for his 32nd save in 36 chances.

Chad Bettis (0-3) settled down after a rough start, allowing four runs and nine hits over six innings. He is still searching for his first major league victory. □



Texas Rangers' Ian Kinsler crosses home to walk in and score from third base on a balk by Seattle Mariners' Danny Farquhar in the 10th inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2013, in Seattle.

Associated Press

gled to left before Hill won it against Dale Thayer (2-4). The Diamondbacks played their 20th extra-inning game this season, second only to the 21 they had in 1999. Arizona is 15-5 in this season's long contests.

San Diego dropped to 7-6 in extra innings.

Heath Bell (5-2) pitched a perfect 10th inning for the

homer, ending the starter's outing. It was Ohlendorf's second start since he was sidelined by right shoulder inflammation.

Tanner Roark, Drew Storen and Tyler Clippard each pitched a hitless inning before Rafael Soriano finished the four-hitter for his 34th save.

Washington kicked off a



# Bolt plans to defend all 3 Olympic sprint titles

**GRAHAM DUNBAR**

**AP Sports Writer**

**ZURICH (AP)** — What's left for a man who has won three Olympic sprint titles back-to-back?

Win all three again, of course.

Usain Bolt said Wednesday is planning to defend his 100, 200 and 4x100 meter relay golds at the Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016.

"To actually go to Rio and win again would be a feat in itself," said Bolt, speaking ahead of the Weltklasse Diamond League meeting in Zurich.

The Jamaican will run in the 100 meters on Thursday after a world championship sweep of the sprints in Moscow, where he talked of working hard to attain "the greatness thing."

Most would say he's achieved that already.

He completed the same triple at the Olympic Games in Beijing and London.

"For me, the key thing is just to go to defend my titles, and that's my focus," Bolt said. "It would be the first time anybody has ever won three times in a row."

Bolt became the most decorated athlete in world championships history this month, with his career tally of eight golds and two silvers lifting him above American great Carl Lewis. Three more golds for Bolt in Rio would still leave him trailing Lewis' Olympic track and field record of nine golds and one silver.

"I won't be adding a fourth event in Rio, for sure," said the 27-year-old Bolt, whose 34th birthday could fall during the 2020 Summer Games.

Bolt's news conference was held at FIFA headquarters, across the city from the stadium where he will run Thursday.

Bolt was greeted on arrival by FIFA President Sepp Blatter, and later accepted a blue FIFA football shirt bearing his name and the No. 9.

Blatter joked that nine seconds was probably the limit for Bolt, whose 100 world record set in 2009 stands at 9.58.

Bolt suggested he was capable of running in the 9.70s at Weltklasse, where a warm, still evening is forecast.

"I have gotten a lot of rest," said Bolt, who last year in cool, wet conditions set a Weltklasse meet record of 19.66 in the 200. "This track is always a fast track and I've run some fast times here."

He ran a season's-best 9.77 in Moscow and rivals Thursday include world's runner-up Justin Gatlin of the United States and Jamaican bronze medalist Nesta Carter.

Though Bolt is the star attraction, the sold-out Letzigrund stadium will also focus on stellar fields for the men's high jump and women's 5,000.

Last month in Switzerland, Bohdan Bondarenko barely failed to clear 2.46 meters at the Athletissima meeting in Lausanne, which would have lifted him above a cherished record in track and field.

Cuban great Javier Sotomayor's 20-year-old mark of 2.45 survived another challenge by the Ukrainian when taking the world title in Moscow.

"Many people wait for the world record. I can't just decide when I jump the world record, or I would do it," said Bondarenko, who looked forward to competing in a more relaxed setting Thursday. "I think this is good because emotions get in the way of jumping."

Ethiopian rivals Meseret Defar and Tirunesh Dibaba rarely race each other outside of major championships, yet the winners of the past three Olympic titles over 5,000 will clash over that distance in Zurich.

"It's a prestige-laden race — and yes, it's very expensive," said meet director Patrick Magyar, describing his efforts to make the match as perhaps the toughest of his career.

Magyar also accepted Caster Semenya of South Africa, who missed the worlds through injury, into the 800 meters after taking the word of her coach, Maria Mutola, who holds the record for wins at the prestigious Weltklasse meet.

"If Maria tells me Caster is in shape to beat anybody in this race, I have to believe her," said Magyar, who has a special send-off planned for a retiring American long jump star.

Dwight Phillips, the 2004 Athens Olympics gold medalist and four-time world champion, will compete in his final competition at the age of 35.



**Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt speaks at a press conference on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, in the run-up to the IAAF Diamond League meeting in Zurich tomorrow Thursday.**  
Associated Press

## Matthews wins fifth stage; Nibali in Vuelta lead

**LAGO DE SANABRIA, Spain**

**(AP)** — Michael Matthews of Australia won the fifth stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Wednesday and Vincenzo Nibali retained the overall leader's jersey ahead of American rider Christopher Horner.

The 23-year-old Matthews, riding for Orica-Greenedge, won in 4 hours, 28 minutes, 22 seconds, after finishing a sprint ahead of Maximiliano Richeze of Argentina and third-place Gianni Meersman of Belgium, who both had the same time as the Australian after riding 108 miles from Sober to Lago de Sanabria.

"My goal was to arrive to

the Vuelta in good form and everything leading up to this point has been a progression to get me to this level," said Matthews. Matthews, who won two stages in the Tour of Utah this month, dedicated his victory to teammate Wesley Sulzberger, who was ruled out of the race after fracturing his collarbone and elbow during Tuesday's fourth stage.

"I wish him a fast recovery and, yeah, this win is for him," Matthews said.

Although Sulzberger managed to finish the fourth stage, Orica-Greenedge withdrew him from Wednesday's stage that included two Category 3

climbs. The 26-year-old Sulzberger, also from Australia, was hurt in an accident at the foot of the steep Mirador de Ezaro climb but was able to get back on his bike and race the remaining 35 kilometers (21.7 miles) to the finish line.

Astana rider Nibali is three seconds clear of RadioShack-Leopard's Horner.

"I was a bit nervous because it was windy today, but it has gone really well for me," said Nibali. "Things are going well for me and the conditions have been in my favor."

Arnaud Courteille and Juerger Van De Walle broke away from the pack



**Michael Matthews of Australia celebrates at the podium his victory at the fifth stage of the Spanish Vuelta, a 174.3-kilometer (108.3-mile) ride starting in Sober and finishing at the Lago de Sanabria, Spain, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013.**  
Associated Press

to lead by 25 seconds, but they were unable to stay ahead as they approached the end.

The three-week race ends in Madrid on Sept. 15.



# GM says almost-driverless cars coming by 2020

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

MILFORD, Michigan (AP) — Sometime before the end of this decade, General Motors will put a car on the road that can almost drive itself.

The automaker says the

and Lexus already offer radar-guided cruise control systems that keep their cars a safe distance from other vehicles and even stop before a crash. They also have systems that warn the driver if they're drifting out of their lane. But

reporters at the company's testing grounds in Milford, Michigan, north of Detroit. The system adds control of electric power steering to off-the-shelf technology that's now available. Although they still have bugs to work out, a Cadillac SRX SUV equipped with the technology worked very well.

Capp says a lot of development work still needs to be done about road conditions, reaction of sensors, visibility of lane lines and how the system will interact with the driver, who still would be in control and can easily override the computer system. He says it's possible GM could sell the system well before the end of the decade. It would debut in Cadillacs, GM's luxury brand, but likely would spread to the rest of the company's lineup.

With the system, people will be able to take their hands off the wheel on a freeway and let the car do the work, he said.

GM is aware that the system could make drivers complacent, turning over control to the car even

though the system isn't designed for that, said Charles Green, an engineer who studies driver performance with the systems.

So before it gets to market, GM will have a feature that makes sure drivers are paying attention, he said.

"Super Cruise will be designed in a way to help you keep your visual attention on the road ahead," Green said, declining to say just how the system

will do that. "The 'how' is something that will become more apparent as we show Super Cruise in its later versions."

Engineers say there are many obstacles to cars that completely drive themselves, including how they react to cars and trucks that don't have the technology. For those reasons, Capp says completely driverless cars are 20 to 30 years away. □



In this Jan. 13, 2006 file photo, the The Super Bowl XL wrap is seen on General Motors Corp. world headquarters in Detroit.

Associated Press

system, called "Super Cruise," uses radar and cameras to steer the car and keep it between lane lines. Also, the radar keeps the car a safe distance from cars ahead of it, and it will brake to a complete stop if necessary.

GM and other automakers such as Mercedes, BMW

until recently, engineers haven't been able to steer with computers, according to GM.

"The steering control is the big additional piece," said John Capp, GM's director of electrical controls and active safety technology.

On Wednesday, engineers showed off the system for

## 1st U.S.-made smartphone just as cheap to produce

NEW YORK (AP) — Motorola's new Moto X phone doesn't cost more to make simply because it's assembled in Texas, research firm IHS said Wednesday.

The Moto X is the first smartphone to carry the "Made in the U.S.A." designation. Labor costs are higher in the U.S. compared with Asian factories, where phones are typically made. But IHS said the Moto X is about 5 percent cheaper to make than Samsung Electronic Co.'s flagship Galaxy S4 phone. The firm said the Moto X's overall production cost is just 9 percent more than that of Apple's iPhone 5. The findings come as little surprise, as the labor cost of a phone is just a small part of its production cost. IHS estimates that labor

and other assembly costs Motorola \$12 per phone for the Moto X, bringing the production cost to \$226. That compares with \$207 for the iPhone 5 and \$237 for the Galaxy S4. IHS said Motorola is able to keep the cost of parts low by using standard components that don't break much new ground.

By assembling the phone in Fort Worth, Texas, Motorola is able to let customers order custom designs online for delivery within four days. Standard black or white models are available immediately at retail stores. "With the Moto X, Motorola is reaping the public-relations and customization upsides of producing a smartphone in the United States, while maintaining competitive

hardware costs," said Andrew Rassweiler, senior director for cost benchmarking services at IHS.

IHS said the estimated \$12 for assembly is about \$3.50 to \$4 more than other leading phones.

"Our initial estimate suggests the additional costs of onshoring the Moto X are relatively low," IHS said. The phone went on sale last Friday, starting with AT&T. It's coming to other carriers, including Verizon this week. The Moto X's price is about \$200 with a two-year service agreement.

The Moto X is Motorola's first phone designed from the start under its new owner, Google Inc. The Internet search company bought Motorola Mobility for \$12.4 billion last year. □

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**AUG 29 - SEP 4**

**ONE DIRECTION  
THIS IS US: 3D**  
**3D VERSION** **PG**  
 MON - THURS 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:00  
 FRI 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:00 | 11:15  
 SAT 2:15 | 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:00 | 11:15  
 SUN & HOL. 2:15 | 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:00

**JENNIFER ANISTON | JASON SUDEIKIS**  
**WE'RE THE MILLERS**  
 MON - THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 **R**  
 FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55  
 SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55  
 SUN & HOL. 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30  
 MON - THURS 5:45 | 8:10  
 FRI 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:50  
 SAT 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:50  
 SUN & HOL. 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10

**LILY COLLINS | JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER**  
**THE MORTAL INSTRUMENTS  
City of Bones**  
 MON - THURS 9:10 **PG-13**  
 FRI - SAT 9:10 | 11:20  
 SUN & HOL. 9:10

**FOREST WHITAKER | DAVID BANNER**  
**LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER**  
 MON - FRI 4:00 | 6:15 **PG-13**  
 SAT, SUN & HOL. 3:35 | 6:15

**LOGAN LERMAN | ALEXANDRA DADDARIO**  
**PERCY JACKSON  
SEA OF MONSTERS**  
 MON - FRI 4:35 | 7:00 **PG**  
 SAT, SUN & HOL. 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00

**MATT DAMON | JODIE FOSTER**  
**ELYSIUM**  
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **R**  
 MON - THURS 9:25  
 FRI - SAT 9:25 | 11:50  
 SUN & HOL. 9:25

**DENZEL WASHINGTON | MARK WAHLBERG**  
**2GUNS**  
 MON - THURS 9:20 **R**  
 FRI & SAT 9:20 | 11:50  
 SUN & HOL. 9:20

**VERA FARMIGA | PATRICK WILSON**  
**THE CONJURING**  
 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **R**  
 MON - THURS 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:35  
 FRI 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05  
 SAT 2:00 | 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05  
 SUN & HOL. 2:00 | 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:35

**DANE COOK | STACY KEACH**  
**PLANES**  
 MON - FRI 4:50 | 7:10 **PG**  
 SAT, SUN & HOL. 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:10

**HANK AZARIA | NEIL PATRICK HARRIS**  
**THE SMURFS 2**  
 3D VERSION WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG**  
 MON - FRI 4:05 | 6:25 | 8:50  
 SAT, SUN & HOL. 1:55 | 4:05 | 6:25 | 8:50

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# Stocks edge higher as Syria, oil worries linger

**KEN SWEET**

**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The stock market edged higher Wednesday as investors continued to focus on the likelihood of a U.S.-led attack on Syria. Energy stocks rose sharply as the price of oil increased to the highest in more than two years. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 48.38 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 14,824.51. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 4.48 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,634.96. The Nasdaq composite rose 14.83 points, or 0.4 percent, to 3,593.35.

The quick rise in the price of oil has caused investors to worry. Costlier oil almost always translates into higher fuel expenses for businesses and consumers, weighing on consumer spending and the economy. While Syria produces little oil, a regional conflict in the

Middle East could lead to supply disruptions in an area where half the world's proven oil reserves lie. "When you add it all up

day in potential production outages," said Nick Koutsoftas, a commodities-focused portfolio manager at Cohen & Steers.



**Trader Gregory Rowe, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stock futures closed modestly higher, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2013, while global exchanges fell, with Western nations laying the groundwork for potential military strikes in Syria.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

— the problems in Libya, Egypt, Syria — you're looking at 3 million barrels a

2011. It went as high as \$112 a barrel overnight. Energy companies were the biggest gainers in the S&P 500. Marathon Oil rose \$1.22, or 4 percent, to \$34.60 and Dow component Chevron climbed \$3, or 3 percent, to \$121.81. While the selling in stocks appears to have abated for now, the overall trend for the market has been down over the last couple of weeks. The S&P 500 has lost 4.4 percent since reaching an all-time high on Aug. 2, while the Dow is down 5.3 percent. Fund managers said investors will have little reason to enter the market until next week's employment report or until the Federal Reserve holds its mid-September policy meeting.

"You may be watching stock prices, but you're not placing any orders in this market," said Chris Hyzy, chief investment officer at

U.S. Trust.

Before Syria grabbed the headlines, the focus had been on the Federal Reserve and whether the central bank was going to pull back on its massive bond-buying program, which has kept interest rates extremely low.

If oil prices remain at these elevated levels, the Fed may have to delay easing back on its bond purchases, said Quincy Krosby, market strategist with Prudential Financial.

"The Fed would see higher oil prices, particularly if they linger at these higher levels, as a definite hindrance to employment and consumer spending," Krosby said.

Hyzy said oil would have to rise above \$125 a barrel before it has a noticeable impact on consumer spending. Cohen & Steers' Koutsoftas said he believes the U.S. consumer has gotten used to higher fuel costs, and oil would have to go to \$150 a barrel before it might impact consumer behavior.

The Syria standoff comes during what is typically a quiet week for stocks. There is little economic data being released and only a handful of corporate earnings. It's also the week before Labor Day, when many on Wall Street are on vacation. Volume on the New York Stock Exchange on Monday was the lowest of any full day of trading this year.

The next big day for the market will come next week, when investors get the August jobs report on Sept. 6, Hyzy and Krosby said.

In corporate news:

— Zales soared \$2.67, or 30 percent, to \$11.63 after the jewelry store chain reported full-year income of 24 cents per share, well ahead of the 17 cents per share analysts expected.

— Avago, an electronics maker, rose \$1.73, or 5 percent, to \$38.28. The company earned 74 cents a share in its latest quarter, beating the 68 cents expected by financial analysts. □

## Proposal gives banks more leeway on mortgage bonds

**MARCY GORDON**

**AP Business Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Regulators want to ease a rule that would require banks to share some risk in the complicated mortgage invest-

serve, U.S. banks could exempt relatively safe mortgages from the value of those securities.

The broader requirements would still have banks hold at least 5 percent of the se-

nual income. Regulators had proposed exempting mortgages in which buyers put down 20 percent. But banks complained that would exclude too many buyers with solid finances.

financial overhaul law in July 2010.

Banks applauded the change.

The new exemption "will encourage lenders to continue offering carefully underwritten (mortgages), including those with lower down payments," Frank Keating, president and CEO of the American Bankers Association, said in a statement.

"As a result, it will help the economy and ensure the largest number of credit-worthy borrowers are able to access safe, quality loan products at competitive prices."

In the years before the crisis, banks packaged and sold bundles of risky mortgages with low teaser rates that climbed after only a few years. Many borrowers ended up defaulting on the loans when interest rates spiked. As a result, the value of the mortgage securities plummeted.

Experts say banks had very little of their own money invested in those securities. That led them to take greater risks that helped stoke the crisis. □



**Regulators want to ease a rule that would require banks to share some risk in complicated mortgage investments. Mortgages backed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac wouldn't be subject to the requirement.**

(AP Photo)

ments that helped cause the financial crisis. Under the proposal advanced Wednesday by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Federal Re-

curities on their books. But banks now could exempt mortgages issued to borrowers who have debt that doesn't exceed 43 percent of their an-

The broadening of the exemption is the latest sign of banks' influence over the rulemaking process, which began after Congress passed the sweeping



# Record settlement reached in bias case at Merrill Lynch

**PATRICK MCGEEHAN**

© 2013 New York Times

Merrill Lynch, one of the biggest brokerage firms on Wall Street, has agreed to pay \$160 million to settle a racial bias lawsuit that wound through the federal courts for eight years, including two appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The payout in the suit, which was filed on behalf of 700 black brokers who worked for Merrill, would be the largest sum ever distributed to plaintiffs in a racial discrimination suit against a U.S. employer. Merrill, which was acquired by Bank of America after the suit was filed, also agreed to take advice from black employees on how to improve their chances of succeeding as brokers.

A spokesman for Merrill Lynch refused to confirm the terms of a preliminary settlement, which were provided by Linda D. Friedman, a Chicago lawyer who represents the brokers. The pool of money, available to all black brokers and trainees at the firm since May 2001, is larger than those offered by other corporations sued by

employees for racial bias, including Texaco and Coca-Cola, Friedman said. It also dwarfs recent payouts by other Wall Street firms, including \$16 million that Morgan Stanley agreed to pay in 2008 to settle a suit brought by black and Hispanic brokers.

"This is a somewhat heroic story because these plaintiffs just kept fighting and fighting," said John C. Coffee Jr., a professor at Columbia Law School. "This is like a triple-overtime win." Among the many twists in the case was the admission in a deposition by Merrill's first black chief executive, E. Stanley O'Neal, that black brokers might have a harder time because most of the firm's prospective clients were white and might not trust their wealth to brokers who were not.

"We are working toward a very positive resolution of a lawsuit filed in 2005 and enhancing opportunities for African-American financial advisers," Bill Halldin, a spokesman for Merrill Lynch, said Tuesday.

When the suit was first filed in 2005, only about 1 of every 75 brokers at Merrill was

black and most of them were considered poor producers. The lead plaintiff, George McReynolds, contended that black brokers received little help from their managers early on and were often ostracized by co-workers. The unequal

step of suing his employer. Now 68, he said he hoped to fill a seat on the leadership council that Merrill has agreed to create to advise the firm on hiring and mentoring of blacks.

For several years, his quest appeared quixotic. He

claims individually.

Friedman said that as many as 1,200 current and former Merrill employees could share in the racial discrimination payout. (As much as one-fifth of the money could go to the lawyers.) But in the beginning, the only name on the lawsuit was McReynolds. Persuading colleagues to join him was complicated by how scattered Merrill's black brokers were: Despite a global network of 14,000 brokers, the firm did not have a single black broker in more than 25 states.

McReynolds and his lawyers gradually persuaded more brokers to sign on as representatives of the class. Early on, as the accusations in the case drew attention from the news media, Merrill executives rushed to hire more blacks into the firm's training program and met with the plaintiffs to try to reach a settlement.

But those talks led nowhere, and the plaintiffs pressed on with their case, just as courts were making it harder for class actions to succeed. Colleagues were not making things any easier for the plaintiffs. □



**George McReynolds, the lead plaintiff in a racial-bias lawsuit against Merrill Lynch, at his home in Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 27, 2013. Merrill Lynch has agreed to pay \$160 million to settle a racial-bias lawsuit that wound through the federal courts for eight years, including two appeals to the United States Supreme Court.**

(Christopher Berkey/The New York Times)

treatment compounded their disadvantages year after year, he contended. McReynolds, a longtime broker in Nashville, Tenn., still works for Merrill eight years after taking the daunting

hired Friedman, whose firm had pressed a class-action lawsuit against Merrill on behalf of female brokers who accused it of sex discrimination. Merrill resolved each of those women's

# State-owned Air China profits rise on yuan gains

**HONG KONG (AP)** — State-owned Air China's half-year profit rose 10 percent as foreign currency gains more than made up for declining passenger and cargo revenue.

The Beijing-based airline said this week that profit margins in the passenger business shrank as competition intensified in China's fast-growing air travel market, the world's second biggest, while the air cargo market remained weak.

"The global economy continued its sluggish recovery whilst China's economic growth slowed," the company said.

A protracted slowdown in the world's second-biggest economy is biting into travel budgets while an uncertain global outlook is cutting demand for exports from Chinese manufactur-

ers.

Air China Ltd., one of China's three major state-owned airlines, reported that profit rose to 1.14 billion yuan (\$180 million) in the January-June period. Revenue slipped 2 percent to 46 billion yuan as sales from its core business shrank. The airline made 1.12 billion yuan in foreign currency gains as China's currency strengthened against the dollar.

The yuan, which is not freely convertible into foreign currencies, has gained 1.8 percent this year.

The airline lost 341 million yuan in the same period last year as the currency slipped against the dollar. Profitability at Chinese airlines is affected to a large degree by currency fluctuations because while they mostly earn revenue



**An Air China jet sits in traffic on the tarmac in Berlin, Germany. State-owned Air China's half-year profit rose 10 percent as foreign currency gains more than made up for declining passenger and cargo revenue.**

(AP Photo)

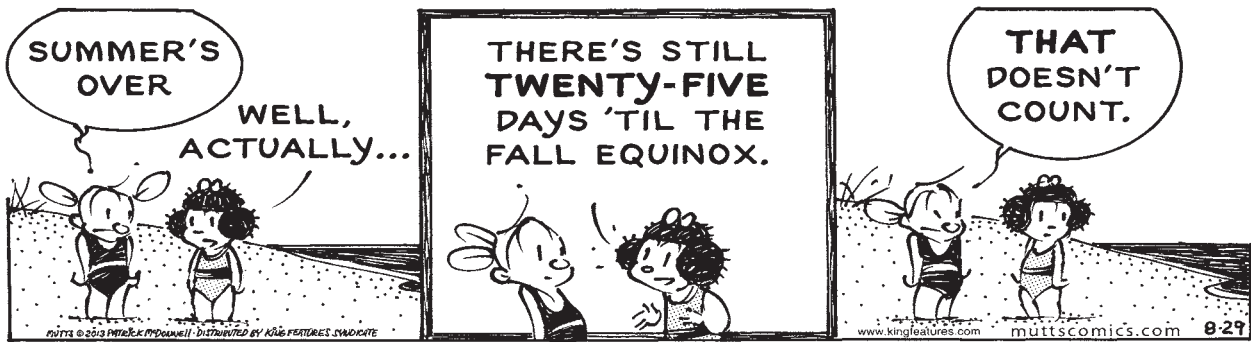
in yuan, expenses for jet fuel and new airplanes are priced in dollars.

Air China also earned 101 million yuan from its shareholding in Hong Kong's Ca-

thay Pacific Airways Ltd., compared with a loss a year earlier. □



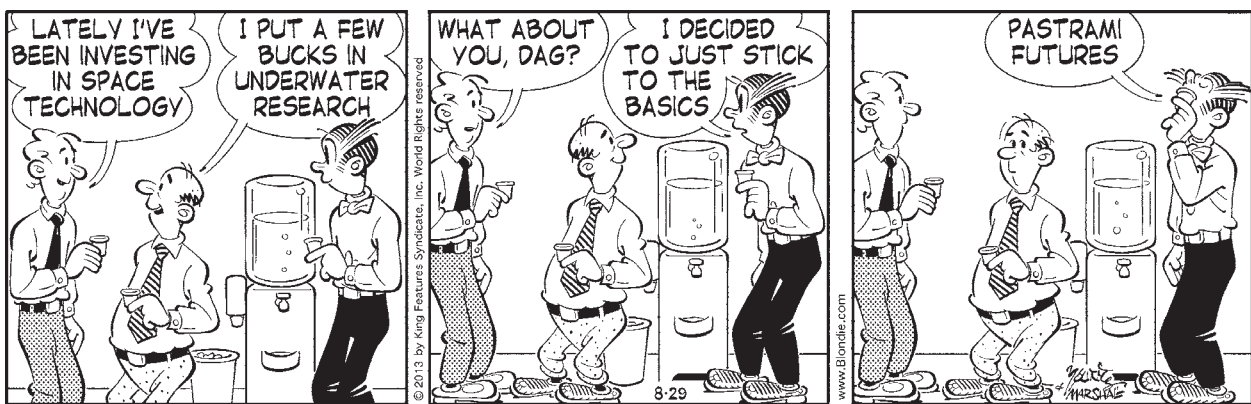
## Mutts



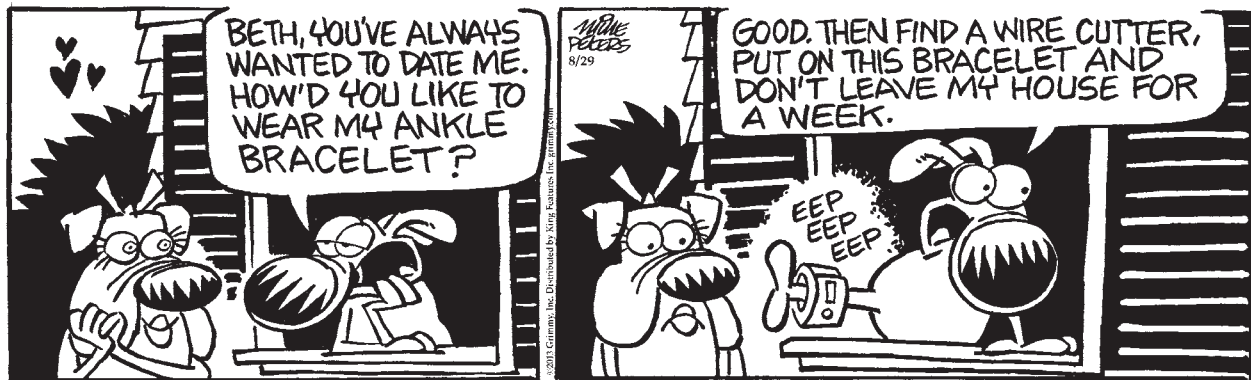
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



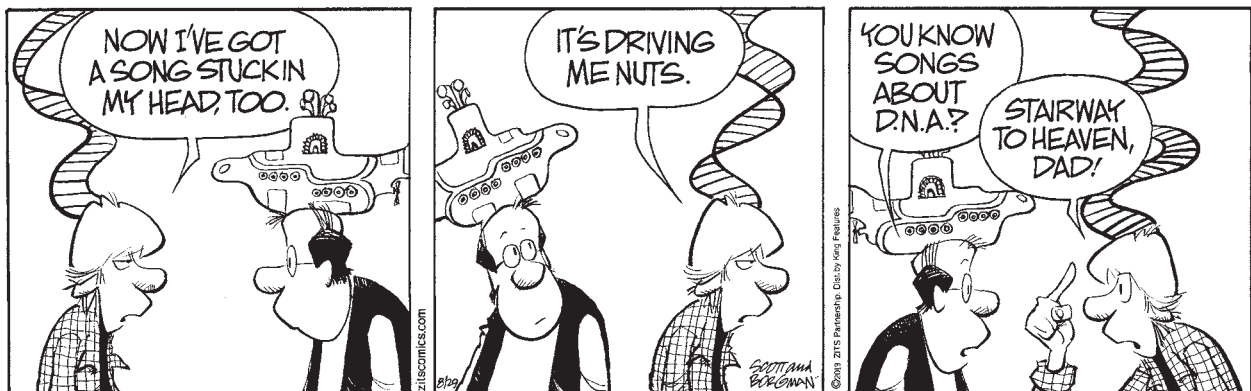
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

8			1	2	6		
		6		9	8	7	
				7			3
3		5			2		8
9			4				
	2	7	6		9		
		4	5	3			1

Difficulty Level ★★

8/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

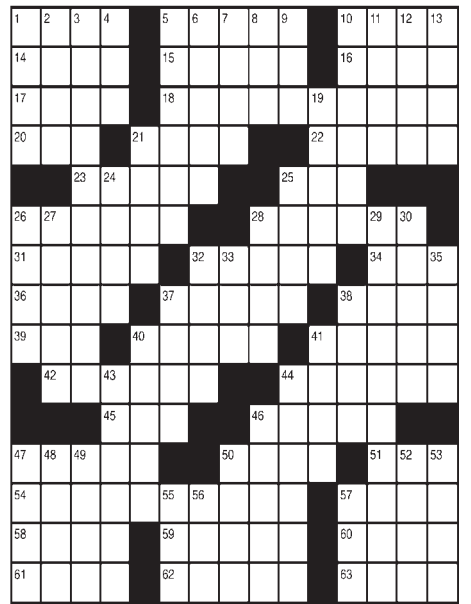
1	2	6	4	5	7	8	3	9
4	8	9	3	2	1	5	7	6
7	5	3	8	9	6	2	1	4
5	3	7	9	6	8	4	2	1
9	1	2	5	4	3	7	6	8
8	6	4	1	7	2	9	5	3
2	7	8	6	1	4	3	9	5
6	4	5	7	3	9	1	8	2
3	9	1	2	8	5	6	4	7

### ACROSS

- Go on a \_\_\_; cut back calories
- Perfect
- Messy person
- Laugh loudly
- Perhaps
- Weathercock
- Distorted
- Take \_\_\_ over; outweigh in importance
- Blind as a \_\_\_
- Golf pegs
- More mature
- Head coverings on parkas
- Trim & healthy
- Greet, military-style
- Burstyn and Pompeo
- Wrong
- Aerosol
- Suffix for profit or command
- Dryer residue
- Say something
- Garroway or Barry
- Edible with a fragile shell
- College officials
- Dried with a towel
- Fish hawk
- Japanese robe
- Male sheep
- Row of speakers
- Tribal pole
- Haughtiness
- Rile
- Illegible
- Astonish
- Has \_\_\_; one no longer popular
- Woody or Mel
- Hardy cabbage
- Inquires
- "God \_\_\_ America"
- Once more

### DOWN

- Dull in color
- Des Moines, \_\_\_



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/29/13

### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

BID	SCALD	SLEW
USED	THREE	LAVA
GLEE	REEFS	EWER
ERADICATE	INNS	
LOCK	RAG	
ACCEPT	POTSHOTS	
SHARE	PANES	WAN
HIPS	FRIED	WISE
ERR	LIONS	DANTE
SPICIEST	LONGER	
YEN	SOON	
FROG	DOCTORATE	
LOIN	INLET	BEDS
ABLE	STOVE	ERGO
PEST	HOPED	MEN

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- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 38 Thin coin                | 48 Individuals        |
| 40 Play                     | 49 Long journey       |
| 41 Is victorious            | 50 Up to the task     |
| 43 Primps                   | 52 Reign              |
| 44 Carpenter and Valentine  | 53 Recognized         |
| 46 Stacks                   | 55 Small amount       |
| 47 Largest brass instrument | 56 Everyone           |
|                             | 57 Music from Jamaica |



## Original AP story on the 1963 March on Washington

**RAYMOND J. CROWLEY**  
**Associated Press**

On Aug. 28, 1963, AP reporter Raymond J. Crowley went to the National Mall and chronicled the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which went on to become one of the most famous political rallies in U.S. history.

Writing in the language and style used by journalists of his era, Crowley duly noted a wide range of details about the event, from the size of the crowd and the songs the marchers sang to President John F. Kennedy's reaction, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech, and the three arrests made by police.

### An edited version of the original story follows:

In a great, dramatic demonstration, more than 200,000 Negroes and white sympathizers massed before the Abraham Lincoln Memorial today and demanded across-the-board abolition of race discrimination.

Then, after the "march for jobs and freedom," President Kennedy asserted that "the cause of 20 million Negroes has been advanced" by the gigantic, orderly assemblage.

Kennedy conferred with 10 march leaders at the White House and issued a statement pledging a continued drive for civil rights legislation, for the removal of job barriers, for better education and full employment.

It was appropriate, he said, that the demonstration was conducted before the nation's shrine to the Great Emancipator. The contribution thus made to the Negro cause is great, he said, "but even more significant is the contribution to all mankind."

By special train, plane, buses by the thousand, private automobiles and even in some cases on foot, the marchers poured into the capital. As they headed homeward tonight, the small army of police and National Guardsmen mustered to cope with feared disorder could report that only three arrests had been

made — and not one of these was a demonstrator. Though the temperature was a balmy 84 and a cool wind stirred, many marchers fainted by the wayside. More than 1,700 were treated at first aid tents or hospitals for ills such as ribs fractured in the crush, headaches and insect bites. Gathering around the Washington Monument, the great sea of humanity moved toward the Lincoln Memorial, which enshrines the marble statue of the man who freed the slaves 100 years ago.

Softly, as they went, they chanted the familiar civil rights hymn: "Deep in my heart I do believe ... some day we shall overcome."

And a forest of placards moved with them. Some of these struck a religious note:

"God of wisdom, God of fewer, can America deny freedom in this hour?"

Others were more down-to-earth and slangy:

"No U.S. dough to help Jim Crow!" Of all the speeches at the memorial, the one that drew the strongest applause was made by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Departing from his advance text, he said:

"I still have a dream, a dream deeply rooted in the American dream that one day this nation will rise up and live up to its creed: We hold those truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

"I have a dream that one day in Alabama, little black boys and little black girls will be able to go hand in hand together with little white boys and little white girls as brothers and sisters. "This is the faith that I will take down to the South — that out of this mountain of despair, I can find a soul of brotherhood."

"Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill in Mississippi, from every city and state in the country."

When King finished, there were cries of "he's a powerhouse," and even one shouted salute to "the next president of the United

States."

John Lewis, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, toned down a fiery speech he had prepared.

It was learned from a competent source that the Very Rev. Patrick A. O'Boyle, Roman Catholic archbishop of Washington, had served notice he would refuse to give the invocation unless the speech were changed. He was said to consider it inflammatory and contrary to the constructive purpose of the gathering.

Lewis confirmed that he had been forced to "capitulate" into making changes. He told a reporter that the archbishop had "said he would not appear on the same platform with a speaker making this and some other statements in my speech."

So out came such passages as:

"We cannot depend on any political party, for both the Democrats and Republicans have betrayed the basic principles of the Declaration of Independence."

In the advance text, Lewis said the Kennedy civil rights bill is "too little and too late" and "we cannot support it." Upon delivery, Lewis said "we support the administration's civil rights bill, but with reservations."

There were some snafus. For example, Hollywood stars got tied up in traffic and could not get to the Washington Monument on schedule to entertain — or take a bow before — the people waiting to start the march.

"Our program is a bit ragged around the edges," the loudspeakers boomed at this point. "The people who were to appear are evidently a long way from here." □

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SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
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Aug. 29

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Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
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### Women in Difficulties

Foundation

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### Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002



# Scientists find clue to age-related memory loss

**LAURAN NEERGAARD**

**AP Medical Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Scientists have found a compelling clue in the quest to learn what causes age-related memory problems, and to one day be able to tell whether those misplaced car keys are an early warning of Alzheimer's.

Wednesday's report offers evidence that age-related memory loss is a distinct condition from pre-Alzheimer's — and offers a hint that what we now consider the normal forgetfulness of old age might eventually be treatable.

Researchers at Columbia University Medical Center in New York examined brains, young and old ones, donated from people who died without signs of neurologic disease. They discovered that a certain gene in a specific part of the hippocampus, the brain's memory center, quits working properly in older people. It produces less of a key protein.

That section of the brain, called the dentate gyrus, has long been suspected



**In this July 29, 2013 photo, a researcher holds a human brain in a laboratory at Northwestern University's cognitive neurology and Alzheimer's disease center in Chicago. Researchers at the university are looking at the rare group of "super agers" — men and women who are in their 80s and 90s, but with brains and memories that seem far younger. They hope that they may find ways to help protect others from memory loss.**

**Associated Press**

of being especially vulnerable to aging. Importantly, it's a different neural neighborhood than where Alzheimer's begins to form. But it's circumstantial evidence that having less of that protein, named RbAp48, affects memory loss in older adults. So the researchers took a closer

look at mice, which become forgetful as they age in much the same way that people do.

Sure enough, cutting levels of the protein made healthy young rodents lose their way in mazes and perform worse on other memory tasks just like old mice naturally do.

More intriguing, the memory loss was reversible: Boosting the protein made forgetful old mice as sharp as the youngsters again, the researchers reported in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

"It's the best evidence so far" that age-related memory loss isn't the same

as early Alzheimer's, said Nobel laureate Dr. Eric Kandel, who led the Columbia University team.

And since some people make it to 100 without showing much of a cognitive slowdown, the work brings another question: "Is that normal aging, or is it a deterioration that we're allowing to occur?" Kandel said. "As we want to live longer and stay engaged in a cognitively complex world, I think even mild age-related memory decline is meaningful," added Columbia neurologist Dr. Scott Small, a senior author of the study. "It opens up a whole avenue of investigation to now try to identify interventions."

This is early-stage research that will require years of additional work to confirm, cautioned Dr. Molly Wagster of the National Institute on Aging, who wasn't involved with the report.

But Wagster said the findings add to a growing body of evidence suggesting "that we're not all on the road to Alzheimer's disease" after we pass a certain age. □

## U.S.: Virus likely causing dolphin deaths

**BROCK VERGAKIS**

**Associated Press**

**NORFOLK, Virginia (AP)** — Federal officials identified a virus Tuesday as the likely reason hundreds of bottlenose dolphins died along the East Coast, but they say there's little they can do to stop the deaths.

More than 330 dolphins have been stranded between New York and North Carolina since July 1, with nearly all of them dead by the time they wash up on shore, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. That's

more than nine times the historical average for dolphin strandings in the region during July and August. "Along the Atlantic seaboard, this is extraordinary," Teri Rowles, NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program coordinator, said in a conference call with reporters. Earlier this month, NOAA declared an unusual mortality event so it could provide additional resources to study what was behind the rapid increase in deaths — more than half of which have

occurred in Virginia. At the time, they suspected the cetacean morbillivirus was causing the deaths, just as it did during the last major dolphin die-off. In 1987 and 1988, the virus was blamed for causing 740 dolphin deaths between New Jersey and Florida.

Although research will continue, NOAA said it has collected enough evidence to declare the virus as the "tentative cause" in the most recent string of deaths as well. Morbillivirus is found in a broad range of mammals, and dolphins with it typically experience symptoms such as skin lesions, brain infections and pneumonia. The virus is usually spread through inhalation of respiratory particles or direct contact between animals, although officials said there's no risk of humans catching it. Bottlenose dolphins are typically found in groups of two to



**Jay Pagel, a staffer at the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine N.J., counts the teeth of a dead dolphin that washed ashore earlier in the day Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2013 in Spring Lake, N.J., before he brought it to the center for an examination. About 230 dolphins have died off the East Coast of the U.S. this summer, prompting a massive probe into the cause of their deaths. This dolphin was the 63rd to die on New Jersey's shores since early July.**

**Associated Press**

15. Officials at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center said many of the dolphins washing up on the state's beaches are badly decomposed. State and federal officials say there are untold numbers of other dolphins that have

also died and haven't washed ashore, likely making the total death count much higher. Using the 1980s die-off as a guide, officials believe the disease and strandings will spread south and last through the spring of 2014. □

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In this Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013 photo, actor Vin Diesel poses for a portrait at NBC Universal in Universal City, Calif. Associated Press

## A rough road back to 'Riddick' for Diesel

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer  
UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)  
— Thump. Thump.

That's the sound the golf cart makes each time it strikes the uneven pavement as it transports Vin Diesel across the Universal Studios backlot. He's traveling from his bungalow office to a screening room where "Riddick" crew members have gathered to watch the third installment of the sci-fi series starring the 46-year-old actor-producer as an extraterrestrial ex-con. "It's such a victory that this movie is going to be in theaters," he says in his signature growly tone.

Indeed, when it comes to "Riddick," Diesel is all too familiar with hitting bumps in the road. It took the "Fast & Furious" star nearly a decade (and millions of dollars in fundraising) to bring his see-in-the-dark anti-hero back to the big screen. Universal had jettisoned a possible third edition after 2004's "Chronicles of Riddick" didn't soar at the box office. Despite the fact "Chronicles of Riddick" and its 2000 predecessor "Pitch Black," as well as a pair of "Riddick" video games, amassed a cult following, it seemed like Riddick would be forever lost in space. However, Diesel remained undeterred. He worked with series writer-director David Twohy to resuscitate Riddick, obtaining the

film rights after Universal passed. "I started in the independent (film) world, but this was a new level of challenge for me," said Diesel. He treated the sequel just like an indie film project, not unlike the 1990s self-funded movies "Multi-Facial" and "Strays," which first transformed the burly New Yorker from bouncer to actor-producer. Between filming "Fast & Furious" movies, he traveled to Germany with Twohy to woo enough investors to convince the studio to come back on board. "This character struck a chord," said Diesel, who points to his 46 million Facebook fans as the reason for taking several risks —including almost leveraging his own house when bills couldn't be paid — to recover Riddick. "He's tangible for them. I think the idea of a character that has been misread, overlooked and given up on is very fascinating to people." The original "Pitch Black," which introduced the ruthless Richard B. Riddick amid an eclectic group of spaceship crash survivors, cost \$23 million and went on to earn \$53 million worldwide. The follow-up heavily expanded on the first film's spacey mythology and budget. It cost \$105 million but wasn't ultimately a blockbuster, bringing in a so-so \$115 million worldwide.

"Riddick," which opens Sept. 6 and leanly cost

between \$35 and \$40 million, blends elements from both chapters, keeping the ornate look of "Chronicles" but dispatching with its PG-13 interstellar politics in favor of the R-rated terror of "Pitch Black." The film strands the Furryan bad boy on a desolate planet where he's hunted by dueling bands of mercenaries.

"For both of us, it was like going home again," said Twohy. "No matter what part of the world we're in, whether it's the Australian outback where we shot 'Pitch Black,' or Vancouver where we filmed the second movie, or inside an old train depot in Montreal where we shot 'Riddick,' it just feels like home when we're together making a Riddick movie."

With the revivals of "Fast & Furious" and "Riddick" now under his belt, Diesel feels reinvigorated about his other passion project: a trilogy in which he'd play Carthaginian commander Hannibal Barca, the audacious general who marched across the Alps to challenge the Roman Empire. It's another bumpy venture Diesel has been working on for the better part of a decade. But first, Diesel says he's revving up for the seventh "Fast & Furious," which begins shooting next month in Atlanta and Los Angeles, and Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy," in which he'll portray the tree-like alien Groot. □

## Zeta-Jones and Douglas 'taking some time apart'



In a Oct. 20, 2007 file photo, actors Catherine Zeta-Jones, left, and Michael Douglas are interviewed by members of the media as they arrive at "A Fine Romance" third annual benefit at Sony Pictures in Culver City, Calif.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A spokeswoman for Catherine Zeta-Jones says the actress and her husband, Michael Douglas, "are taking some time apart to evaluate and work on their marriage."

Publicist Cece Yorke said in an email to The Associated Press on Wednesday that there would be no further comment. A phone call to a representative for Douglas wasn't immediately re-

turned.

People magazine, citing unnamed sources, first reported that Zeta-Jones and Douglas had decided to spend time apart.

Zeta-Jones, 43, and Douglas, 68, were married in 2000. They have two children. He battled throat cancer in 2010 and made headlines this summer when he spoke out about one potential cause, oral sex. □

## Pamela Anderson to run NY marathon for Haiti group

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Hollywood celebrity Pamela Anderson is running in the New York City Marathon to support fellow actor Sean Penn's humanitarian group in Haiti. Penn's J/P Haitian Relief Organization said Wednesday that the actress will be part of the group's fundraising team that will take five Haitian distance

runners to compete in the Nov. 3 race.

The money raised will go toward operating funds for the humanitarian group, which has helped shelter some of the people displaced by Haiti's earthquake in 2010.

Penn later became an ambassador-at-large for Haiti because of his humanitarian work. □



# 'Simpsons' creator finds funny in his cancer fight

**FRAZIER MOORE**

**AP Television Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Since word got out about Sam Simon's cancer, this co-creator of "The Simpsons" and fervent philanthropist has heard from many people online asking to help rid him of his sizable wealth. "Some people just want a million dollars. Or help with college tuition. And the rest have business propositions," he chortles. "Like that should be my legacy: to lose money on your movie or your moisturizer line. 'I'm bedridden,' says Simon, milking the scenario for all its tragicomic worth, "weighing whether to dole my money to people lined up outside the house!" He laughs, flashing a piano-keys grin. Then he gets serious.

"I'm supporting the charities that I supported during my lifetime," he states, "and I want to continue to do that." With every cent of his fortune. Simon, 58, isn't exactly bedridden. For this recent interview he has presented himself, sporty in sweater and slacks, to meet with a reporter in the guest house of his swank estate in Pacific Palisades. He pads into the kitchen and makes himself a coffee before firing up a robust Cuban cigar, then alternately sits and reclines on a wall-length banquette



**This Aug. 12, 2013 photo shows Sam Simon, co-creator of "The Simpsons," at his home in Pacific Palisades, Calif. Simon, 58, was diagnosed his colorectal cancer last November. Having defied that diagnosis' sentence — three to six months to live — Simon continues to push ahead, broaching no defeat.**

**Associated Press**

that looks out on his lawn of statuary, including one of the original casts of Auguste Rodin's "The Thinker." Fitting. Sam Simon has had much to think about since his advanced colon cancer was diagnosed last November after a year of inconclusive tests and mysterious discomfort. Having defied that diagnosis' original death sentence — he was given three to six months to live — Simon continues to push ahead with no whiff of "Why me?" "Instead, I think, 'This is a really bad situation — and what else can I do to get

out of it?'" What he's doing right now is mobilizing a dozen lines of attack, some traditional, some wacky. But he says one of his new medications weighs him down with fatigue. "Is this Monday?" he wonders aloud. "I think I've been sleeping since Friday. I'd rather be nauseous than tired, I think." Pick your poison. Simon is living the nightmare of anyone who so far has been spared cruel evidence of one's own mortality. But Simon seems to frame it mostly with a laugh or a

shrug.

Maybe that befits a world-class wag who has long thumbed his nose at authority and other human vanities, who has lampooned the human condition with insight and humor for an audience of millions, and been richly rewarded for his labors.

Simon grew up comfortably in Beverly Hills, but his father was in the garment industry, not show biz, which puts him at a loss to account for his comedic gifts (never mind Groucho Marx lived across the street).

After turning his drawing talent into a job at an animation studio that made cartoons for kids, Simon submitted a script, on spec, to the glorious ABC comedy "Taxi." His script was bought and produced, and Simon, in his 20s, was hired as a staff writer and soon rose to be the showrunner. From there he joined a new NBC sitcom called "Cheers," where he was staff writer for its ascendant first three seasons. In 1987 he became a writer and executive producer on the Fox comedy series "The Tracey Ullman Show," teamed alongside James L. Brooks, the comedy legend with whom he had worked on "Cheers" and "Taxi," and, of course, cartoonist Matt Groening. They became the found-

ing fathers of "The Simpsons."

"The Simpsons" began as interstitial cartoon clips aired during the otherwise live-action "Ullman" show until, in 1989, it was spun off as a Fox half-hour of its own. Simon was named creative supervisor, and he hired the first writing staff as well as creating several Springfield citizens, including Mr. Burns, the cadaverous industrialist, and Dr. Hibbert, the buffoonish physician. Although Simon remained the least-known of the three creators, by many accounts he was the most hands-on. "You can't overstate his contribution to 'The Simpsons,'" says talk-show star Conan O'Brien, who was a "Simpsons" writer and producer in the early 1990s. "No one's smarter than he is." The show — TV's first successful prime-time animated series since "The Flintstones" nearly three decades before — caught the public off-guard with its sly but perceptive look at the culture.

"With 'The Simpsons,' people didn't know what they were gonna see," says Simon. "They didn't have a clue." The show was given time and free reign to flourish by the fledgling Fox network. "I don't think you get that sort of creative freedom with any broadcast shows today."

Simon left "The Simpsons" after its fourth season in 1994 owing to a strained relationship with Groening. But it was a lucrative departure. His exit deal entitled him to royalties from "The Simpsons" that, as it enters its 25th season this fall, annually pad Simon's wallet by tens of millions of dollars. He has played no role on the show in nearly 20 years (not even watching it, he says), even as his name remains in the weekly credits along with Groening's and Brooks' — and his checks roll in.

This sweet annuity has bankrolled the causes and alternative lifestyle he increasingly came to embrace. □

## Sting's wife Trudie Styler to star off-Broadway

**MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Drama Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Actress and producer Trudie Styler, the better half of pop singer Sting, will star this fall in a new off-Broadway adaptation of Anton Chekov's "The Seagull." Producers said Wednesday that Styler will portray the fading actress Irina Arkadina in the Culture Project's version of the classic work adapted by Thomas Kilroy and directed by Max Stafford Clark. This version will be set in late 19th century Ireland. The rest of the cast includes Rufus Collins, Alan Cox, Stella Feehily, Slate



**This Sept. 7, 2012 file photo provided by Starpix shows Trudie Styler during the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.**

**Associated Press**

Holmgren, Rachel Spencer Hewitt, Ryan David O'Byrne, Amanda Quaid, Tim Ruddy and Kenneth Ryan. Previews begin Oct. 3 and opening night is set for Oct. 13. Styler's acting career began with the Royal Shakespeare Company and she made regular appearances on British TV during the 1980s as well as in many film roles. Her acting credits include the BBC series "Love Soup" and the film "The Next Three Days" with Russell Crowe. She has helped produce "Girl Most Likely" with Kristen Wiig and "Black Nativity" with Forest Whitaker. □



## A Different Kind Of Division



ROSS DOUTHAT  
© 2013 New York Times

Three months before the 1963 March on Washington, whose 50th anniversary falls this week, officials in Birmingham, Ala., opened fire hoses and loosed dogs on civil rights protesters. Two months before the march, the civil rights organizer Medgar Evers was murdered outside his home in Jackson, Miss. And a few weeks after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have Dream Speech" echoed down the Washington Mall, a bomb ripped open Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church, killing four little girls. Fifty years later, race is still in the headlines; indeed, the "post-racial" presidency of President Barack Obama has (predictably) given us more race-related controversy than the last two administrations combined. Some of these debates are essentially trivial, churned up by a "no, you're the racist" grievance factory that runs day and night on cable news. But others - on voting rights, affirmative action, stop-and-frisk, etc. - are serious and weighty whatever side you take.

So America was divided by race in 1963 and it is divided by race today. But it is not divided in anything like the same way. And the case for optimism about racial polarization starts with what the fire hoses and bombs of '63 signify about the difference between the civil rights era and our own.

Then, the major issue facing black America was entirely zero-sum: For King to win, Bull Connor had to lose. There was no potential common ground so long as segregation lasted. Jim Crow had to perish outright for African-Americans to move forward as Americans. And their white supremacist oppressors knew it, which is why they turned to state-sponsored violence and state-sanctioned terrorism to defend their system and way of life.

Today our polarized politics may encourage a zero-sum attitude, but the underlying realities do not. George Zimmerman is not a half-Hispanic Byron De La Beckwith. Voter ID laws are not Jim Crow come again. And the thread of white identity politics running through Obama-era conservatism is just that - a sense of resentment and grievance, not a supremacist ideology reborn.

The interests of white and black Americans do not always align, any more than the interests of Ohioans and Californians, or senior citizens and younger Americans, or the college-educated and the working-class. But there is vastly more room to work

through major problems together than there was in the Alabama and Mississippi of 1963. How so? Well, start with that most reliably controversial of race-related issues: criminal justice, where America's drug laws and incarceration rates are often cited by civil rights activists as an example of how structural racism threatens to create a "new Jim Crow."

Except that while the actual Jim Crow invariably pitted white, Southern, conservative politicians against civil rights activists, today criminal justice is a place where many conservative politicians have embraced activists' priorities instead. Attorney General Eric Holder's recent proposals for sentencing reform, for instance, followed a path blazed by Rick Perry in Texas a decade ago. In the Senate, the conservative Republican with the closest ties to the states-rights ideology that once justified segregation, Rand Paul, is also the loudest voice in support of reconsidering the War on Drugs. Likewise in education policy, another longstanding racial flash point. There the older battles over integration and busing have mostly given way to a debate about competition and teacher standards in which conservative states are often laboratories for reform. From Chris Christie's New Jersey to Perry's Texas (which does a better job educating minority students than many liberal states), the politics of education increasingly produces cross-racial alliances and intraparty debates that look nothing like the civil-rights era divides.

Meanwhile, in the broader socioeconomic landscape, the big story of the last generation in American life is that problems that were seen as specifically "black problems" in the 1970s and 1980s - persistent unemployment, especially for men, family breakdown and social disarray - are now problems affecting the pan-ethnic working class. Neither party currently has an agenda that's well tailored to this challenge. But because the problems themselves increasingly cut across racial lines, a successful political response from either party would probably tend to reduce racial polarization - winning more minority votes for the Republicans or more working-class whites for the Democrats - and encourage socioeconomic solidarity instead. Obviously, no such agenda could emerge, and the Obama race wars could continue indefinitely - with the Republican Party as a vehicle for white identity politics and the Democratic Party as a vehicle for ethnic patronage, with voter ID laws and affirmative action as permanent flash points, and with less racially polarizing issues shunted to the side.

But unlike the racial conflict of 50 years ago, there is nothing necessary about this kind of division. And this week of all weeks, it's fitting to have a different dream. □



## The Decline Of E-Empires



PAUL KRUGMAN  
© 2013 New York Times

Steve Ballmer's surprise announcement that he will be resigning as Microsoft's CEO has set off a huge flood of commentary. Being neither a tech geek nor a management guru, I can't add much on those fronts. I do, however, think I know a bit about economics, and I also read a lot of history. So the Ballmer announcement has me thinking about network externalities and Ibn Khaldun. And thinking about these things, I'd argue, can help ensure that we draw the right lessons from this particular corporate upheaval. First, about network externalities: Consider the state of the computer industry circa 2000, when Microsoft's share price hit its peak and the company seemed utterly dominant. Remember the T-shirts depicting Bill Gates as a Borg (part of the hive mind from "Star Trek"), with the legend, "Resistance is futile. Prepare to be assimilated"? Remember when Microsoft was at the center of concerns about antitrust enforcement?

The odd thing was that nobody seemed to like Microsoft's products. By all accounts, Apple computers were better than PCs using Windows as their operating system. Yet the vast majority of desktop and laptop computers ran Windows. Why? The answer, basically, is that everyone used Windows because everyone used Windows. If you had a Windows PC and wanted help, you could ask the guy in

the next cubicle, or the tech people downstairs, and have a very good chance of getting the answer you needed. Software was designed to run on PCs; peripheral devices were designed to work with PCs.

That's network externalities in action, and it made Microsoft a monopolist.

The story of how that state of affairs arose is tangled, but I don't think it's too unfair to say that Apple mistakenly believed that ordinary buyers would value its superior quality as much as its own people did. So it charged premium prices, and by the time it realized how many people were choosing cheaper machines that weren't insanely great but did the job, Microsoft's dominance was locked in. Now, any such discussion brings out the Apple faithful, who insist that anything Windows can do Apple can do better and that only idiots buy PCs. They may be right.

But it doesn't matter, because there are many such idiots, myself included. And Windows still dominates the personal computer market.

The trouble for Microsoft came with the rise of new devices whose importance it famously failed to grasp. "There's no chance," Ballmer declared in 2007, "that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share."

How could Microsoft have been so blind? Here's where Ibn Khaldun comes in. He was a 14th-century Islamic philosopher who basically invented what we would now call the social sciences. And one insight he had, based on the history of his native North Africa, was that there was a rhythm to the rise and fall of dynasties.

Desert tribesmen, he argued, always have more courage and social cohesion than settled, civilized folk, so every once in a while they will sweep in and conquer lands whose rulers have become corrupt and

complacent.

They create a new dynasty - and, over time, become corrupt and complacent themselves, ready to be overrun by a new set of barbarians.

I don't think it's much of a stretch to apply this story to Microsoft, a company that did so well with its operating-system monopoly that it lost focus, while Apple - still wandering in the wilderness after all those years - was alert to new opportunities. And so the barbarians swept in from the desert.

Sometimes, by the way, barbarians are invited in by a domestic faction seeking a shake-up. This may be what's happening at Yahoo: Marissa Mayer doesn't look much like a fierce Bedouin chieftain, but she's arguably filling the same functional role.

Anyway, the funny thing is that Apple's position in mobile devices now bears a strong resemblance to Microsoft's former position in operating systems. True, Apple produces high-quality products. But they are, by most accounts, little if any better than those of rivals, while selling at premium prices.

So why do people buy them? Network externalities: lots of other people use iWhatever, there are more apps for iOS than for other systems, so Apple becomes the safe and easy choice. Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.

Is there a policy moral here? Let me make at least a negative case: Even though Microsoft did not, in fact, end up taking over the world, those antitrust concerns weren't misplaced. Microsoft was a monopolist, it did extract a lot of monopoly rents, and it did inhibit innovation.

Creative destruction means that monopolies aren't forever, but it doesn't mean that they're harmless while they last. This was true for Microsoft yesterday; it may be true for Apple, or Google, or someone not yet on our radar, tomorrow. □



# Spices A Surprising Source Of Food-Borne Illness

**GARDINER HARRIS**

© 2013 New York Times

IDUKKI, India - Spices grown in the mist-shrouded Western Ghats here have fueled wars, fortunes and even the discovery of continents, and for thousands of years farmers harvested them in the same traditional ways. Until now.

Science has revealed what ancient kings and sultans never knew: Instead of improving health, spices sometimes make people very sick, so Indian government officials are quietly pushing some of the most far-reaching changes ever in the way farmers here pick, dry and thresh their rich bounty.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will soon release a comprehensive analysis that pinpoints imported spices, found in just about every kitchen in the Western world, as a surprisingly potent source of salmonella poisoning.

In a study of more than 20,000 food shipments, the food agency found that nearly 7 percent of spice lots were contaminated with salmonella, twice the average of all other imported foods.

Some 15 percent of coriander and 12 percent of oregano and basil shipments were contaminated, with high contamination levels also found in sesame seeds, curry powder and cumin.

Four percent of black pepper shipments were contaminated.

Each year, 1.2 million people in the United States become sick from salmonella, one of the most common sources of food-borne illness. More than 23,000 are hospitalized and 450 die. Symptoms include diarrhea, fever and abdominal cramps that begin 12 to 36 hours after infection and can last three to five days. Death can result when infection spreads from the intestines to the bloodstream and affects vital organs. Infants and older people are most at risk.

Mexico and India had the highest share of contaminated spices. About 14

percent of the samples from Mexico contained salmonella, the study found, a result Mexican officials disputed.

India's exports were the second-most contaminated, at approximately 9 percent, but India ships nearly

issues we need to be addressing right now."

Westerners are particularly vulnerable to contaminated spices because pepper and other spices are added at the table, so bacterial hitchhikers are consumed live and unharmed.

visually inspects less than 1 percent of all imported foods and performs lab tests on a tiny fraction, rejects imports with any signs of salmonella contamination because as few as 10 cells have been shown to cause serious illness.

On a tour through a tropical landscape teeming with pepper and cardamom farms, rubber plantations, tea estates and wild elephants, Indian spice officials showed some voluntary changes they are pushing.



**James Paul shops for spices for sale in Kochin, India, Aug. 23, 2013. Prompted by a U.S. Food and Drug Administration study that found salmonella in many spice imports to the U.S., India, a major producer of spices, is taking steps to change how they are grown and harvested.**

(Graham Crouch/The New York Times)

four times the amount of spices to the United States that Mexico does, so its contamination problems are particularly worrisome, officials said. Nearly one-quarter of the spices, oils and food colorings used in the United States comes from India.

The findings, the result of a three-year study that FDA officials have on occasion discussed publicly and recently published in the journal Food Microbiology, form an important part of the spice analysis that will be made public "soon," agency officials said.

"Salmonella is a widespread problem with respect to imported spices," Michael Taylor, deputy FDA commissioner for food, said in an interview. "We have decided that spices are one of the significant

Bacteria do not survive high temperatures, so contaminated spices present fewer problems when added during cooking, as is typical in the cuisine of India and most other Asian countries.

In India, the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices, government officials are taking Washington's concerns seriously.

"The world wants safe spices, and we are committed to making that happen," said Dr. A. Jayathilak, chairman of the Spices Board of India, a government agency that regulates and promotes spices.

FDA tests found that contaminated spices tend to have many more salmonella types than is typically found on contaminated meat. The agency, which

illnesses caused by spices are hard to trace. When asked what might have made them sick, people rarely think to mention adding pepper to a salad. Spices sit on kitchen shelves indefinitely, so linking illnesses that can occur years apart is often impossible.

But sophisticated DNA sequencing of salmonella types is finally allowing food officials to pinpoint spices as a cause of repeated outbreaks, including one in 2010 involving black and red pepper that sickened more than 250 people in 44 states. After a 2009 outbreak linked to white pepper, an inspection found that salmonella had colonized much of the Union City, Calif., spice processing facility at the heart of the outbreak.

The first stop was Noble Joseph's 10-acre pepper farm, about a four-hour drive from the southwestern port city of Kochi, up several thousand feet of twisting mountain roads.

Joseph's hilly farm is dominated by slim silver oaks and erythrina trees planted every 8 feet; each tree is encircled by four or five pepper vines.

During harvest season, starting in February, 15 workers cram into a small farmhouse for nearly two months and use long, single-rail bamboo ladders to pluck the pepper seeds from the vines as high as 40 feet.

Not so long ago, pepper farmers almost universally dried the seeds on bamboo mats or dirt floors and then gathered them for manual threshing. □